EAST BAY EXPRESS

NOVEMBER 18-24, 2009 [illegible] EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

CULTURE SPT 20

A Coach's Job Begins Off the Court

Coach Joanne Boyle has [illegible] the Cal women's basketball program by treating [illegible] members as people as well as players.

By Morris Phillips

NEWS 14

THE EPICENTER OF A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Even as awareness of hepatitis C grows, the scant resources devoted to its treatment are being slashed

[illegible] Landau

Dr. Diana Sylvestre is not an alarmist. But when it comes to the hepatitis C virus — the country's number one bloodborne pathogen — she says we are in the midst of a grave public health crisis in which Oakland is an epicenter. And that's inexcusable, she believes, because hepatitis C can be beaten through treatment. Many of the infected experience no symptoms, and those requiring care have a good chance of clearing the virus with medication. But even as awareness of the problem has grown, the already scant resources devoted to it have been slashed. *Story inside*

FOOD 32

OIL BE BACK

We take a trip to Fremont's Deep-Fried Twinkie and Pastrami Shop. Really.

MUSIC 43

THE SAD DISCO STAR

El Perro del Mar's melancholy turns danceable on *Love Is Not Pop.*

HW
Harlan Wong, O.D.

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On the Cover *UC Berkeley women's basketball coach Joanne Boyle. Photo by Chris Duffey.*

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Editor Stephen Buel
Managing Editor Kathleen Wentz
Staff Writer Robert Gammon
Staff Writer/Calendar Editor Rachel Swan
Clubs Editor/Editorial Coordinator Nate Seltenrich
Editorial Interns Alison Alter, Megan Giraud, Phil Marshall
Contributors Claudia Bauer, Elea Campbell, DeWitt Cheng, Chris Duffey, Kathleen Ferr, Dave Gil de Rubio, Matthew Green, Andrew Gilbert, Cole Haddon, J.R. Jones, Kirby Kleinman, Eric Wells, [illegible], Sonya Renvit, Joseph Rubio, Jason Victor Serinus, Jamie Soja, Matthew Stafford, Kelly Vance, Jay Youngdahl

Art & Production
Production Manager Greg Tuvera
Graphic Designers Brian Kelly, Nicholas Wong

Circulation
Circulation Manager Nate Seltenrich
Circulation Assistants Dennis Eastone, Clinton Fenwick

Business
Publisher Jody Colley
Business Manager Matthew Ayroth
Systems Managers Jonas Nebeado
Barber King Hal Brody

Advertising
Sales & Marketing Director Terry Furry
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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
A Troubled Rape Case
MANIPULATING THE VOTE

LETTERS

[illegible]

My Mind Has Been Opened

Thank you for the in-depth investigative report on this important story. I have to admit that when I first heard about an "aggressive" DA and a much-younger ADA, I jumped to conclusions that are clearly not warranted. Now I have an open mind.

Peter Logan, San Francisco

[illegible], 10/28

What Name Recognition?

Why do various articles keep emphasizing Don Perata's name recognition?? All I have is NEGATIVE name recognition from years of his influence peddling, power-mongering, and so many shady dealings with his political opponents, and campaign donations from all the Good Old Boys. As a long-term Oakland resident, why can't I recall even one thing he did to help those he served in these many terms in office? He takes credit while others did the work. When I see his name on the ballot, I will rapidly skip over it.

Leslie Bovett, Oakland

How Can He Show His Face?

I am surprised Don Perata is not ashamed to show his face in Alameda County where so many voters already know that IRV/Ranked Voting elections allow better democracy. Many of us have long known that Perata was the one in Sacramento preventing voters statewide from modernizing to ranked voting. IRV is the election system that counts the will of the most possible voters in the decisive round of vote counting; there is no honest reason to oppose it. While he stalled, we have had to rely on politicians like Debra Bowen and locals Keith Carson, Loni Hancock, and Kriss Worthington for any progress towards IRV modernization. If Perata had not killed the bills to allow IRV modernization statewide, Oakland and Berkeley would already be demonstrating how much better democracy can be, and setting an example for how failing war-torn so-called "democracies" like Iraq and Afghanistan can also modernize to the better/best election system and resolve their issues without violence instead. Perata has consistently tried to maintain the status quo money-dominated two-party election system because he is more confident of raising money and using insider-party politics than he is of getting actual voter support.

Steven Williams, Berkeley

KPFA Elections Mark Station's Latest Turmoil, News, 10/28

Where's the Change?

Chris Thompson's chronicle of the latest spitting duel at KPFA starts with a slap at Glenn Beck and ends announcing that the executive director of Pacifica is planning to oust KPFA board member Brian Edwards-Tiekert, presumably for his ideological impurity. Just as our president responds to diversity at Fox News by trying to trump the First Amendment and freeze that network out from contacting the people we pay, so too KPFA honors the basic leftist tenet that diverse colors are cool but diverse opinions must be disenfranchised.

It's no accident that another board hopeful is Henry Norr, whose antipathy towards the most religiously diverse and free-speech honoring nation in the Middle East (Israel) is well-known.

In 1968, as an anti-war activist, I was surrounded by leftists more interested in grabbing power than in enhancing freedom. I'd love to see someone on the left champion change I could believe in.

David Altschul, Berkeley

[illegible], 10/21

Give Wynton His Props

I used to feel similar about Wynton, and, on the one hand, must forgive what you wrote. On the other, my opinions weren't printed for countless impressionable readers. I've learned to respect him and his devotion to the art of jazz music. Make no mistake, he is the real deal.

You know a lot about music and may have your opinion on Wynton for reasons I'm not aware of. I hope not. As far as I can tell, Wynton singlehandedly blew fresh wind into the sails of jazz when it desperately needed it. When on tour, Wynton would make a point of visiting local schools to encourage students in jazz programs. (He could have been chasing skirts, like most of us would have.)

Wynton has long been known to have an attitude jacket by interviewers because he is so straightforward and refuses to continue the impediment of jazz by bad press. Nobody likes a "know it all," but when asked, Wynton will give you both barrels. He is not famous for smoothing things out. Yes, Wynton is very Wynton, but calling him a snob seems, to me, very shallow and unrespectful of the whole picture.

Steve Logan, Berkeley

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RAISING THE BAR

IRANIAN HIKERS PAYING PRICE FOR US SPY POLICIES

Now would be a good time for our government to formally renounce the use of journalists as spies

By Jay Youngdahl

On July 31, three former UC Berkeley students were arrested by Iranian authorities in the mountains near the border between Iran and Iraqi Kurdistan. Since then, Shane Bauer, 27, of Emeryville; Joshua F. Fattal, 27, of Cottage Grove, Oregon; and Sarah E. Shourd, 31, of Oakland, have been held in Iran's Evin prison. Their families say the three may have accidentally crossed an unmarked border during a hiking trip. However, this month an Iranian prosecutor said he is charging them with being spies for the US government.

Like most in our country, I am appalled by Iran's current leadership. They are descendants of the fascists who murdered many Iranian students, including some I knew, who had jubilantly returned home from exile after the end of the regime of dictator Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Those students had hoped to build a new and progressive Iran and believed that things were turning for the good in their suffering country.

Consequently, I have much sympathy for the three hikers and share the anguish of their families and friends, who vehemently reject the notion that they are spies. However, much of the blame for their plight, and for the similar detention of US journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee in North Korea, must go to those in our government who will not renounce the use of journalists as spies.

US government officials predictably claimed that the three are not spies and said they were seized solely as pawns in the geopolitical chess game between Iran, the United States, and other nations. The problem with this argument is that our government never admits anyone is a spy, and has indeed been known to use journalists as spies. So why should Iranians believe Hillary Clinton's crocodile tears on behalf of the three hikers?

Iran, you will remember, is where our CIA staged a coup in 1953, leading to the overthrow of a democratic government and the installation of Pahlavi, the aforementioned Shah of Iran. Even former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has admitted that "it is easy to see now why many Iranians continue to resent this intervention by America in their internal affairs." As to what the United States is doing today in Iran, many with knowledge assert that US operatives are trying to destabilize the government. *New Yorker* writer Seymour Hersh has asserted this, as has former Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter. And, earlier this year, former US National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft said that the US government has spies at work in Iran.

Iranian authorities are surely to blame with regard to these three hikers, but it cannot be denied that our country's foreign policy is the catalyst for their continued detention. CIA involvement in clandestine "regime change" abroad has seldom affected American travelers personally. But as the global stroke of the United States continues to shrink along with our empire, our government's behavior will create more and more problems for its citizens, especially in the wake of our post-9/11 activities. Everyday citizens are starting to pay.

Other countries feel more emboldened to stand up to the acts of the United States, as 23 Americans found out earlier this month when an Italian court convicted them for their participation in a CIA-backed kidnapping in Milan. These Americans plucked Egyptian-born Osama Mustafa Hassan Nasr off the streets of Milan and flew him to Egypt where, he claimed, he was subjected to brutal torture that included having live electronic prods applied to his genitals. What was the defense used by the Americans? It was that their activities were approved in Washington. The Italian prosecutor called on the court to reject this "Nuremberg defense," and the judge did.

The Committee to Protect Journalists has issued a statement on behalf of the three hikers, calling the allegations that they were spies "outrageous." While I do not know what reporting they were doing in the area, Bauer is an experienced journalist who has written for several local and national publications. Artful and progressive reporting by the other two can be found on several web sites.

The problem with all this is that it seems likely that our country does use journalists as spies and has spies pose as journalists. That makes it much harder for the families in this case to prove that these three were not, and causes problems for American journalists at a time we need more reporting from the places where US soldiers are being sent to fight and die.

This issue has been repeatedly raised in Washington, with little to show for it. In 1976 a Senate committee headed by Frank Church found that more than fifty American journalists had worked clandestinely as CIA agents during the Cold War. Their final report called on the CIA to declare that this would never happen again. During the Clinton administration, the Senate held hearings on the use of journalists as spies and an array of prominent journalists asked the CIA to confirm that it would never involve journalists in spying. The CIA refused to do so. In 1996, the head of the Committee to Protect Journalists said in a report that the CIA's stance "may have led some foreign leaders to believe that the CIA and leading US policy-makers are actively urging an end to official constraints on the use of journalist for espionage." In 2001 the *Washington Post* ran a story about a "high level" defector from the Taliban who said that he had been visited two or three times by American intelligence agents posing as journalists. There can be little doubt that since 9/11, the CIA and other intelligence-gathering services of this country feel more freedom to engage in such activities.

Now would be a good time for the government to revisit this issue. In the meantime, we are holding our breath, hoping for a safe return of the three. In October, their mothers presented a petition signed by more than 2,500 people to the Iranian Mission in New York asking for the release of the hikers. A web site dedicated to their freedom can be found at FreetheHikers.org. ●

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/hikers

Jay.Youngdahl@EastBayExpress.com

SEVEN DAYS

THE BROKEN PROMISE

It's official: California no longer offers an affordable college education. Plus, a new casino moves forward in Richmond and alleged torturer loses BART contract.

By Robert Gammon

California's public colleges and universities used to be the envy of the nation. For a half-century, they provided an excellent education at an affordable price. But not any longer. The California State University system is raising student fees through the roof, and this week, the UC Board of Regents plans to increase them by a whopping 32 percent. It also plans to break its own long-standing promise of making sure that graduate programs are priced competitively.

A report from the state's Legislative Analyst put the state's education crisis in blunt terms: California's Master Plan for Higher Education, established in 1960 to ensure a quality education at a low price for qualifying state residents, is now largely a joke, according to the report. "Today, its assumptions look pretty quaint," the report's author told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "There's a big disconnect between what the state's priorities are and what's actually going on."

California's severe budget crisis prompted state legislators to slash $2 billion in higher education funding this year — $800 million from the UC system, $500 million from CSU, and $700 million from community colleges. Both CSU and UC are implementing huge student fee increases as a result, and the UC regents plan to push undergraduate fees above $10,000 annually next year.

The regents also plan to boost fees for 44 graduate programs — from 7 percent to 65 percent. The increase represents a direct violation of UC's own policy that grad programs not exceed the average cost of similar programs nationwide. But instead of doing anything about the violation, the regents simply plan to revise the policy next year.

Giant New Richmond Casino

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors gave the green light to a massive new Indian casino at Point Molate in Richmond, according to the *Contra Costa Times*. However, the casino, which is being pushed by a Berkeley developer in partnership with the Guidiville Band of Pomo Indians, must still win approval from the US secretary of interior and the Richmond City Council. Several prominent politicians, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, oppose it.

The casino resort would include thousands of slot machines, two hotels, a conference center, and 300,000 square feet of retail. Environmental groups also oppose the plans because they would prefer to see Point Molate turned into waterfront parkland. Unions, by contrast, support it because it will create jobs. A majority of the city council apparently backs the plan because the cash-strapped city stands to receive $20 million a year.

Alleged Torturer Loses BART Pact

Nedir Bey, the black Muslim bakery associate who allegedly tortured a man and then secured a $1.1 million loan from the City of Oakland, lost a $750,000 BART station lighting contract last week when he failed to turn in the paperwork, according to the *Oakland Tribune* and the *SF Weekly*. In addition, Bey's failure to comply with the contract means that BART may lose state funding for the project at the North Berkeley BART station.

Brown's Mini Scandal

State Attorney General Jerry Brown halted an internal investigation into the illegal taping of journalists' phone calls by his now-former spokesman, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Brown's investigation concluded that ex-spokesman Scott Gerber taped at least six phone calls by reporters after being told not to do it. Brown also said that Gerber even taped his conversations without his knowledge.

Brown's office concluded that although state law prohibits recording people without their consent, Gerber didn't break the law because reporters should have no expectation of privacy. But then earlier this week Brown changed course and asked Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley to investigate the matter after he was criticized by several newspapers.

Yelp Stories Win Award

East Bay Express Managing Editor Kathleen Wentz won the award for best investigative journalism in the print, non-daily category from the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for 2008-2009. Wentz won for her story "Yelp and the Business of Extortion 2.0" (2/18/2009), which detailed shady practices by the popular online review site Yelp.com and resulted in the company changing some of its policies.

Three-Dot Roundup

The City of Oakland has decided to crack down on parking ticket scofflaws, becoming the first city in the state to employ the "Smart Boot." ... Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts ordered a cop to return to duty even though he allegedly played a role in the death of a suspect and is being investigated by the FBI. Lawyers for the victim's family don't object as long as Captain Ed Poulson doesn't go back to his job as head of internal affairs. ... The City of Berkeley banned cat declawing, following the City of San Francisco's decision to ban the practice. ... The California Highway Patrol began issuing speeding tickets en masse on the Bay Bridge following last week's fatal truck crash. ... The state could lose billions of dollars in federal funds because of its decision to slash its Census outreach program. ... The statewide $11 billion water package contains $2 billion in pork spending, much of which has nothing to do with California's water problems. ... And the governor complied with a federal court order and submitted a proposal to cut the state's prison population by 40,000. ●

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An artist's rendition of the proposed Oakley Generating Station. California Energy Commission

ECO WATCH

PG&E WANTS MORE FOSSIL FUEL

The utility that touts itself as being green-friendly is quietly proposing two new large natural-gas-fired power plants in the East Bay

By Robert Gammon

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has attempted to recast itself in recent years as a green-friendly utility. It has backed climate change legislation and has run extensive marketing campaigns, highlighting its investments in renewable energy. Two months ago, the utility made headlines when it publicly withdrew from the US Chamber of Commerce over the chamber's backward views on global warming. But PG&E's attempt to build two new fossil-fuel-powered plants in the East Bay that critics say are unnecessary is raising questions over whether the utility's eco-friendly image is more hype than reality.

PG&E is requesting state approval for two natural-gas-powered plants in Antioch and Oakley. The utility maintains that it needs the 1,550 megawatts of power the plants will produce to meet future demand. But some environmental groups say PG&E has plenty of fossil-fuel-based energy already, and the two new plants will worsen California's greenhouse gas emissions. They also argue that PG&E should be concentrating on meeting the state's 20 percent renewable-energy standard for 2010 — and not embarking on new carbon-based projects.

The San Francisco-based environmental group Pacific Environment filed an official protest late last month with the California Public Utilities Commission over PG&E's proposals. The protest points out that from 2003 to 2007, while the utility was bragging about how green-friendly it has become, the actual percentage of renewable power it has used declined from 12.4 percent to 11.5 percent. "They're very savvy at public relations," said Rory Cox, California program director for Pacific Environment. "The reality is the renewable content of their energy portfolio has gone down."

PG&E's applications with the state include the 930-megawatt Marsh Landing Generating Station, just north of Antioch, to be operated by Mirant Energy. The other power plant would be owned by PG&E and be known as the Oakley Generating Station. It would produce 624 megawatts of power. Both facilities would use state-of-the-art technologies that don't require massive amounts of water for cooling.

In an interview, PG&E spokesman Blair Jones did not dispute the utility's renewable energy shortfall over the past several years. But he maintained that PG&E has signed enough contracts to buy renewables to meet the statewide 20 percent requirement in the future — although he would not specify when. He also said that PG&E needs reliable natural-gas power to offset the intermittency of wind and solar power, which are dependent on whether the wind blows and the sun shines. "To meet California's growing need for energy, it's important that we have a variety of sources including reliable ones — 24 hours a day, seven days a week," he said.

Jones said that the two new East Bay power plants will allow the utility to retire older fossil-fuel facilities, and pointed to two old Contra Costa County natural-gas units that are to be taken out of commission soon. But those two facilities are slated for retirement regardless of whether the two new power plants are built, and have been barely producing energy in recent years. According to the environmental group's protest, one of the units ran at just 1 percent of capacity in 2007 and the other at 3 percent that year.

Again, Jones did not dispute the group's numbers, which came from the California Energy Commission. And when asked what other power plants PG&E plans to retire with the advent of the new East Bay facilities, he would not answer directly, saying only that "in general, it will help lead to the replacement of older power-generating facilities." He declined to answer further questions about how PG&E could meet its 20 percent state requirement if it keeps building new fossil fuel plants and doesn't identify old ones for retirement.

Environmental groups contend that PG&E simply doesn't

Continued on page 10

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Eco Watch

Continued from page 9

need the new plants. They note that the utility recently opened a new 530-megawatt natural gas-powered facility in Antioch called the Gateway Generating Station. Moreover, the groups note that PG&E and other companies have embarked on a massive, $15 billion construction spree of natural-gas plants around the state since 1999. "The building of natural gas ... occurred just as the state was required to implement its renewables policy," Pacific Environment's protest notes.

In addition, a 2003 study conducted by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory concluded that California should be decommissioning natural gas plants, not building new ones, if the state is going to meet its 33 percent renewable energy requirement by 2030. The study said the state should reduce its natural gas power by at least 8,000 megawatts over the next two decades. Two months ago, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an executive order mandating the 33 percent requirement by 2020, making the retirement of natural gas facilities even more urgent. "Building any new natural gas capacity undermines California's green energy goals," Pacific Environment's protest adds. "Even repowering existing plants would amount to pushing aside the state's green energy targets."

Environmentalists also are concerned about adding another power plant to already-overburdened Contra Costa County. According to the California Energy Commission, the county already produces more megawatts of power than the other eight Bay Area counties combined. Contra Costa County is home to fourteen power plants that produce 5,698 megawatts of power. The next closest is Santa Clara County at 1,279 megawatts. Alameda County produces 616 megawatts. The total for the nine-county Bay Area is 10,008 megawatts.

Contra Costa County also has more than its share of oil refineries, chemical manufacturing facilities, and other major polluters. As a result, the county accounts for more than one-third of the total sulfur dioxide emissions in the Bay Area and is one of the highest emitters of carbon monoxide, according to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. The county also has five times the number of facilities that emit air pollutants per square mile than the state average, according to the PG&E protest.

There's also ample evidence that the county's overabundance of industrial pollution has exacted its toll on residents, especially among minorities. For example, childhood asthma rates in the county are twice the national average, while black kids countywide are five times more likely to be hospitalized for the disease than white kids, according to the county health department. County death rates for cancer and respiratory diseases also are higher than the statewide average.

As a result, Pacific Environment contends that PG&E violated its own protocols and the CPUC's requirement to analyze the environment justice impacts of its proposed power plants. PG&E spokesman Jones said the utility would officially respond to the protest this week. ■

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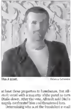
YOU DON'T KNOW JACK

There's strong evidence that Marcel Diallo Jack, the self-styled "mayor of West Oakland," perpetrated a racist Internet fraud on a local activist.

By Robert Gammon


Max Allstadt. Rebecca Schneider

Marcel Diallo. Jen Siska

Oakland activist and political blogger **Max Allstadt** was the victim of a vicious Internet fraud that could have happened to anyone. A scam artist set up a fake e-mail account, disguised as Allstadt, and then sent out an ugly e-mail full of racist and homophobic invective. Allstadt was stunned, but decided to fight back, and through a series of court-ordered subpoenas, he uncovered strong evidence that the person behind the fraudulent e-mail was **Marcel Diallo**, a well-known black-empowerment activist and self-styled "mayor of West Oakland" who was featured earlier this year on CNN.

Interviews and public records suggest that Diallo sent the fraudulent e-mail as revenge for a vote Allstadt cast while serving on a West Oakland city advisory panel. A nonprofit that Diallo controls had requested a $190,000 grant from the panel. Public records indicate that Diallo desperately needed the money after losing at least three properties to foreclosure. But Allstadt voted with a majority of the panel to turn Diallo down. After the vote, Allstadt said Diallo angrily confronted him and threatened him.

Determining who sent the fraudulent e-mail was anything but easy. The fraudster set up an e-mail account with Google under the name MaxAllstadt@gmail.com, but the Internet giant refused to disclose the identity of the scam artist without a subpoena. So Allstadt, a carpenter by trade, borrowed some money, hired lawyers, and filed a libel suit against unnamed defendants. "Luckily, I had the resources that allowed me to borrow the money," he said in a recent interview. "If I hadn't, I would have had to just sit there and take it."

The information provided by Google revealed only that the fraudster had set up the e-mail account while using an Internet connection from Comcast. So Allstadt's lawyers subpoenaed the cable provider. But after being contacted by Comcast, Diallo's attorney, **Raymond Willis**, intervened in the case in an attempt to block the subpoena, saying he represented Black Dot Artists, a nonprofit that Diallo runs out of his West Oakland home. However, the judge allowed the subpoena to go forward, and Comcast revealed that MaxAllstadt@gmail.com was set up using an account established and maintained by Diallo, according to legal documents provided by Allstadt.

Neither Diallo nor his lawyer returned phone calls for this story. But in court documents, Willis argued that anyone could have sent the racist e-mail because he said it came from a wireless account that's available to the public at Diallo's Black Dot Cafe. If true, then the wireless access also was probably available to others in the immediate vicinity. However, Google revealed that the person who set up the e-mail account did it at 2:47 a.m., so it likely didn't come from the cafe because it isn't open at that hour. In addition, the cafe and Diallo's nearby home are in a sparsely populated neighborhood, thereby severely restricting the number of people who could have used the wireless access — and known Allstadt. It also should be noted that Willis maintained in court documents that the Internet account belonged to Black Dot Artists, but the Comcast records showed that it was registered to Diallo, personally, at his home.

Moreover, public records raise serious doubts about Diallo's truth telling over the years, at a time when his various enterprises have been awarded at least $250,000 in city funds. For starters, the spoken-word poet's real name isn't Marcel Diallo, it's Marcel Diallo Jack. And for the past decade, records strongly indicate that the "mayor of West Oakland" has been living — at least part time — in an apartment on the other side of town. Since 2000, he has been registered to vote at an apartment on Park Boulevard near Interstate 580, and county records show that he voted at a polling place just off Park in last November's election.

Public records also show that by the time that Allstadt and Diallo had their alleged run-in early this year, Diallo's financial world was crumbling. Among the three properties he lost to foreclosure by late 2008 was his sometime home on Pine Street near the Port of Oakland.

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Chris Duffey

The e-mail was sent shortly after Allstadt voted to deny Diallo a city grant for Village Bottom Farms, above. Previously, due to financial troubles, Diallo had lost his Pine Street home, bottom left, to foreclosure. Meanwhile a bank is about to foreclose on the Black New World cafe, bottom right, which the city awarded him $50,000 to seismically upgrade.

Plus, according to court records, he had been evicted from his Park Boulevard apartment for failure to pay rent.

It was a startling turnaround for the West Oakland artist. At the beginning of the decade, he started buying up property in the far reaches of West Oakland. His plan was to establish a black-cultural district in the traditional "lower Bottoms" neighborhood. "I think he was really trying to build up that part of the city," said City Councilwoman **Nancy Nadel**, who represents West Oakland and said Diallo and his friends have "an entrepreneurial spirit."

Over the years, Diallo has preached black empowerment while denouncing gentrification and railing against young white hipsters. Although some viewed him as little more than a divisive race baiter, his message drew followers, especially among artists, young progressives, and the city's black establishment. He was featured favorably in stories in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Oakland Tribune*, and the *East Bay Express*. In 2008, Mayor **Ron Dellums** appointed him to the city's cultural arts commission. And this summer, he made national news when CNN profiled him.

But public records indicate that he never had the financial wherewithal to keep his fledgling black-cultural district alive. From 2004 to 2006, he purchased several West Oakland homes at the height of the housing boom. It soon became apparent that he couldn't pay his many mortgages, despite the financial grants he had received from the city over the years for after-school arts programs.

In 2007, mortgage lenders foreclosed on two of his homes after he failed to make his monthly payments. And a year later, he lost his home on Pine Street to foreclosure. But he was stubborn. Court records show that two of his lenders were forced to take him to court in order to get a judge to legally evict him from their property. His landlord on Park Boulevard also sued him for eviction when he stopped paying his rent.

Indeed, records indicate that by late 2008, Diallo might have ended up on the street if it had not been for **Rick Holliday**. The local developer purchased Diallo's foreclosed home on Pine Street from Diallo's mortgage lender and then allowed Diallo to keep living there. Holliday also provided Diallo with inexpensive space in his nearby condominium development for the Black Dot Cafe. In other words, the black empowerment leader who had become one of the East Bay's loudest voices against gentrification is being propped up financially by a prominent white businessman from Emeryville.

As Diallo's fortunes plummeted, Max Allstadt's were on the rise. The young white activist had moved to West Oakland several years earlier and hooked up with a group of friends who were challenging the neighborhood's traditional black and progressive power structure. Allstadt's clique includes **Sean Sullivan**, who ran unsuccessfully against Nadel in the 2008 council primary, and **Rebecca Schneider**, a city employee who operates the blog ABetterOakland.com under the pseudonym "V Smoothe." Allstadt himself is a guest blogger and frequent commenter on Schneider's site (and also has posted several strongly worded criticisms of this reporter in comments at EastBayExpress.com). He also is politically active and won a spot last year on the West Oakland Community Development Block Grant board, which recommends financial grants to worthy nonprofits.

Allstadt's alleged clash with Diallo occurred in March of this year after the poet asked the block grant board for city money for his West Oakland urban farm project, Village Bottoms Farms. According to city records, Diallo's nonprofit requested a $152,000 city grant over two years. But at the March 14 meeting of the board, Allstadt and his friends instead voted to award city funding to an established urban farming nonprofit, City Slicker Farms.

In court documents, Allstadt alleged that Diallo was angry about the vote. "You're in trouble man, you voted against the people," Diallo said, according to a statement Allstadt filed in Alameda County Superior Court in an effort to obtain a restraining order against Diallo. According to Allstadt's filing, Diallo also said: "You're not going to be comfortable walking around your block. ... You're not going to be comfortable in West Oakland. I'll make sure of it."

Twelve days later, the racist e-mail was sent from Diallo's Comcast account to numerous people across the city, including local politicians, according to court records. Nadel told Full Disclosure that she received a copy. The e-mail was obviously intended to make people believe it came from Allstadt. Besides bearing his name, it mentioned the block grant board and ABetterOakland.com. It also mentioned "Mr. West Oakland himself," in an apparent reference to Diallo. It derisively referred to gays as "queens" and blacks as "sambos" and "jiggaboos." It concluded by stating, "It's high time we Drained the Bay of Black People."

In an interview, Allstadt said he first learned of the e-mail when a friend phoned him about it. "My heart was pounding; I was shocked," he said. "I was also kind of scared. To be framed for being something that I'm not, especially living in a town that has ethnic tensions, it's potentially dangerous." Allstadt also was worried that the e-mail would destroy his reputation because it had been 'blind' copied to an unknown number of politicians and political activists.

Allstadt said he immediately suspected that Diallo had sent the fraudulent e-mail because of his block grant vote and their alleged confrontation. But it took months for him to uncover the evidence that points toward the 37-year-old Diallo. Finally, when he discovered that the e-mail came from Diallo's Internet account, Allstadt approached the *Express* to tell his story.

As for Diallo, his fortunes continued to nosedive after not receiving the grant. One bright spot came in May, when the Oakland City Council awarded him $50,000 to seismically upgrade his Black New World social club down the block from his Pine Street residence. The grant, however, appears questionable, considering that the building is a rusted, corrugated metal shack with at least one large hole in the side. As for Village Bottoms Farms, it's a gated vacant lot, and the only thing that appears to resemble a farm is a mid-size planter with some tomato vines in it.

In May, the state also placed a $13,125 lien against Diallo for failing to pay California taxes, county records show. And on October 30, two of Diallo's mortgage lenders recorded filings with the county, saying that they were going to sell two of his properties — the Black New World social club and Village Bottom Farms — at a foreclosure auction this week on the courthouse steps. It's unclear what will happen to the city's $50,000 grant if Diallo loses the Black New World to foreclosure, too. ●

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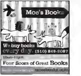
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Orlando Chavez and Larry Gardino outside a recent meeting at OASIS

Julia Landau

THE EPICENTER OF A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Even as awareness of hepatitis C grows, the scant resources devoted to its treatment are being slashed

By Julia Landau

Dr. Diana Sylvestre is not an alarmist. But when it comes to the hepatitis C virus (HCV) — the country's number one blood-borne pathogen — she says we are in the midst of a grave public health crisis with Oakland as an epicenter. And that's inexcusable, she believes, because hepatitis C can be beaten through treatment. Many of the infected experience no symptoms, and those requiring care have a good chance of clearing the virus with medication. But even as awareness of the problem has grown, the already-scant resources devoted to it have been slashed.

More than four million Americans have been exposed to the virus and nearly 3 million are thought to be chronically infected. Hepatitis C is the country's leading cause of liver failure and liver transplantation, accounting for about 12,000 deaths a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Liver transplant lists are accumulating names at a startling rate and donors can't keep up.

And yet, hepatitis C is growing in scope. "It's something that can lead to death and debility and it's not being addressed," said Sylvestre, who encounters the virus on a regular basis at her Oakland-based OASIS clinic, which has detected more than 3,900 cases of hepatitis C since it began screening for it ten years ago.

In fact, hep C is several times more common than HIV, but awareness by health care professionals and citizens is strikingly low. Why? For one thing, a majority of hep C sufferers use intravenous drugs. Then again, about half the people infected don't even know they have it. Even among the afflicted, there is often a lack of urgency. "The word is on the street, you know: 'Everyone's got that shit; I don't have to do anything about it,'" Sylvestre lamented. "The truth is it can kill you, but it doesn't have to."

Interferon and ribavirin combination treatment, a form of chemotherapy, has proven successful in eliminating the virus in about half of those who take it. But getting patients to that stage is a huge obstacle. Inadequate access to health care is partly to blame, but so is the failure of doctors to recognize the need for testing. Highland Hospital, the default hospital for the poor and uninsured in Alameda County, hasn't offered treatment in several years. When the doctor running the internal clinic left, the hospital never hired someone else. Instead, doctors there refer patients sick with hep C to specialists like those connected with Sylvestre's clinic.

The virus lives in the liver. It's not HCV that destroys the body, but the immune system's reaction to it. If the immune system declares war on the liver, it can lead to cirrhosis or liver cancer. Persons with HIV are now more likely to die from hep C-related liver disease than any other condition. And alcohol accelerates liver damage and makes treatment ineffective. "Alcohol and hep C are like gasoline and fire," Sylvestre said.

Intravenous drugs are closely linked to the disease. According to people on the front lines, if you use intravenous drugs in Alameda County, you have a 97 percent chance of being exposed to the virus. "In most places, if a test turns up positive for HCV they confirm it with another test," Sylvestre said. "Here, if I get a negative test I go to confirm it. That's how unusual a negative test is."

While drug use is responsible for the majority of new cases, it's not merely a junkie disease. "People who say 'Well, I don't use needles so I don't need to worry about it' are kidding themselves," she said. About one third of the roughly three million Americans infected with hep C acquired it in some other manner. Failure to implement strategies to stop the illness can risk a serious outbreak, even for people who don't use IV drugs and aren't in prison — it can be passed on by sharing a toothbrush or razor, or having unprotected sex.

"It's ridiculous to call it an addiction disease," Sylvestre said. "Before screening began in 1992, one in ten units of blood were infected. There were 200,000 cases a year back then, so there are a lot of people cruising around with hep C who got it through a blood transfusion." Studies estimate that 15 percent of people with the virus contracted it sexually — a large number when you consider the millions currently infected.

Prison populations are dense with hep C and hard to monitor. "Drug use is rampant in prisons," Sylvestre noted. "Who knows? Tattoos, sex, lots of things." These populations leave prison and bring it back to the street. And in the days before HCV screening began people incarcerated for drug offenses were sometimes offered sentence reduction for blood donations.

The relative ignorance about this epidemic highlights the health-care discrepancies in poor neighborhoods. Poverty and substance abuse are linked inextricably in this country, and when a virus also is linked to drugs, clinical trials and a national campaign to stop it tend to take longer. "Addiction doesn't elicit much sympathy from the public," noted Orlando Chavez, a coordinator of HepTev, the Berkeley Free Clinic's Hepatitis Testing, Education and Vaccination program. "Once HIV crossed over to the mainstream people paid attention, but hep C hasn't yet had that crossover effect."

About one third of people living with HIV are also infected with hep C, a common coinfection. Both are transmitted by blood and disproportionately affect African Americans. Providers addressing hep C have often had to ride the coattails of HIV's recognition as an attention-worthy disease. The victims of hepatitis C, Chavez said, are "not well equipped to advocate for themselves."

This year California cut an unprecedented amount of funding for harm reduction services, including the grants which account for up to 90 percent of funds for Bay Area needle exchanges. Since about 90 percent of local injection drug users are believed to use these clean needle sites, which also test for HIV and hep C, this action will likely increase viral transmission while decreasing the number of people who are tested for or even made aware of hep C.

But HCV can be addressed with simple public health strategies. That's why it's so frustrating for professionals such as Sylvestre. "There's almost no access to testing and education, no state funding, and very little federal funding for hep C," she said. An OASIS study detected more cases of hepatitis C than all the other sexually transmitted diseases combined. Sylvestre will be meeting with the State Department of Public Health next month to discuss her data. So far she said, "We've never gotten a dime from the state. They just haven't gotten the message, and so the state is really behind the times."

In a way, the situation echoes the national health care crisis. Outreach, prevention, and education cost the system a fraction of what treatment costs, but while treatment is deemed necessary — you can't turn sick people away from the emergency room — education and prevention are treated as disposable when it's time to cut budgets. The prevalence of HCV has an economic impact on the health care system, but it's clouded by a lack of national discussion. Indeed, the strategies used to prevent the spread of HCV also work to decrease drug overdoses, crime and incarceration costs, ambulance rides, emergency room visits, and law enforcement resources. The outreach and support provided through the OASIS clinic transforms the communities in which HCV persists the most — the poor and addicted.

Orlando Chavez remembers experiencing mysterious symptoms. He was so fatigued he'd fall asleep next to his coffee cup at the Merritt Bakery. "They would kick me out thinking I was a junkie," he said. "But I wasn't even high." He experienced sporadic aches and pains and bruised easily. When fluid built up in his foot, making it swell painfully, emergency room doctors told him it was cellulitis. It was only when he was in line at the Richmond methadone clinic, trying to beat a thirty-year heroin habit, that he heard about hepatitis C. Shortly after finding out he had it, Chavez found himself with advanced decompensated cirrhosis — an irreversible scarring of the liver that precedes liver failure. "It's almost unheard of to treat a liver in that stage," Chavez said. "I was lucky to even get a referral."

A new clinic had opened, one specifically targeting hepatitis C and drug addiction. Sylvestre and others founded OASIS, the Organization to Achieve Solutions in Substance Abuse, in 1999 as a medical provider for underserved populations engaging complex problems like addiction, mental illness and hep C and HIV. When asked how OASIS came to cater to hep C, Sylvestre answered, "No one else would do it."

Sylvestre requires patients to attend group meetings before beginning treatment. "I don't just give out prescriptions for treatment. I make you come to group. [Interferon] is chemotherapy. It's a big deal and you need to know what you're getting into."

Interferon is an aggressive drug regimen that makes for an ill year for the patient; people taking it often experience severe depression and extended flu-like fatigue. That's why peer support is essential. At OASIS, the hope is that after someone gets successfully treated they will "shed some light" on the virus for others. Chavez underwent eleven months of therapy. With the help of his peers, Chavez cleared the virus in 2001 and it hasn't come back. Now he co-chairs the Tuesday group meeting there.

The noontime support group includes people saved by Sylvestre and her staff. As the discussion moved around the circle it was clear that treating HCV means treating addiction and educating people about the disease. Lunch is provided, followed by a practical science lesson. "People come for the lunch and stay for the information," said Sylvestre, noting that Chavez was so interested in the medical aspects that he became a veritable expert. Chavez, in turn, credits "the doc" with his turnaround. "She makes you keep coming back because if you're a quitter you're not going to make it," he said.

Between the 25 group attendees on hand on one recent Tuesday, the spectrum of hepatitis C stories revealed itself. John, a white man in his fifties, said he's "probably had hep C since high school." Some were there to stay sober. Some stories were still evolving, like a preacherly anemic man in a wheelchair awaiting a liver transplant. "I pray for everything to be right," he said. "But I got one thing right — I ain't using dope no more."

Larry Galvado, a Marine veteran and counselor at OASIS, chairs the discussions. He usually opens the meeting with his own story: "I got treated and cleared the virus, then it came back. But I'm not calling 911 — I'll die of something else before I die of hep C."

Almost everyone there becomes a cheerleader for Sylvestre. Chavez remembers his first year in the clinic: "I thought, 'She's there every day, you should be there, too.' I don't know of other doctors who spend their lunch hour educating drug addicts, people who everyone else has slammed the door on."

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A Coach's Job Begins Off the Court

Coach Joanne Boyle has built the Cal women's basketball program by treating team members as people as well as players. By Manis Phillips

Cal women's basketball coach Joanne Boyle tutors some players during a recent practice.

Cass Duffey

When Joanne Boyle became head coach of UC Berkeley's women's basketball team, her program was an afterthought. Cal had gone twelve seasons without a winning record or a finish in the top half of the Pac-10 conference. During games, Haas Pavilion was another quiet place students could go to and study.

But in the four years since, Boyle has resurrected Cal's program. Since 2005, her teams have won at least twenty games three times, and made NCAA tournament appearances every year. Last season, the Bears had the best season in the university's history, winning 27 games and advancing to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the first time ever.

Boyle's predecessor, Caren Horstmeyer, had recruited well for the 2005 season. Devanei Hampton and Alexis Gray-Lawson were nationally rated recruits from nearby Oakland Tech who liked the idea of turning a perennial loser into a winner. Horstmeyer had then wooed Jene Morris from San Francisco, Shantrell Sneed from Berkeley, and Ashley Walker from Modesto: a recruiting class ranked in the top five nationally. Yet before the quintet hit the court, Horstmeyer was let go by new athletic director Sandy Barbour. She had committed the cardinal sin: overseeing five losing seasons during her tenure at Cal. And she also didn't beat the Cardinal, Cal's arch rival Stanford.

A national search ensued, and more than one hundred coaches applied, intrigued by an opportunity at a name-brand institution with top players already on board. Eight to ten were considered seriously, and five came to Berkeley for a thorough look-see. Boyle, a rising star, was hired, following three impressive seasons at the University of Richmond, a school with no prior tradition in women's basketball.

It was Boyle's big break — if only she could find common ground with a close-knit and probably skeptical group of players. But the situation was difficult, Barbour said. "She recognized the dynamic right away," the athletic director recalled, "and then she did all the right things."

Lindsay Gottlieb, Boyle's top assistant at Richmond and also for her first three years at Cal, remembers a rougher transition. "That first year was unlike anything else we had experienced," Gottlieb said. "Those players looked at us like aliens from another planet. But Joanne worked day after day to gain their trust."

Boyle stood by a simple pitch, and made it stick in her daily interactions with the team: "I know how to do this. We can do it together."

Yet along with her easygoing mantra, she also required her players to have perfect class attendance, physically demanding workouts, and daily practices topped off with unequivocal study sessions. Boyle didn't sugarcoat it, but instead helped her players find the joy in the grind. "She never let them operate at a level one iota removed from what was expected," Gottlieb said. "And they appreciated that." While other Cal students found their stride more casually, blending academics and social interactions, Boyle led her team on a structured path, forcing them to find peace in concert with each other.

The women's basketball team became a family, with Boyle as the surrogate parent.

"She is a great person," Gray-Lawson said. "I think you don't get that from a lot of people. If I ever had a problem or an issue, or whatever is going on in my life, I can always go and talk to her. I don't think that a lot of people can say that about their coach. [She's] like my second mom."

The growth process was complicated. Gray-Lawson wore here her changing emotions on her sleeve, but eventually became Boyle's steady leader on the floor. In close games, where will and talent take precedence over a coach's complicated playbook, she took the big shots.

Meanwhile, Hampton broke team rules and started her career with a highly publicized suspension. Yet by her sophomore year, she had matured on and off the court and was named the Pac-10 Player of the Year.

Walker made the biggest jump as a player, becoming good enough to be the first Cal player to be drafted by and then play in the WNBA. In her final two years, Walker emerged as the team's focal point, forcing a team of stars on the high-school level to adjust their egos. Morris, a singular star in high school at San Francisco's upscale private Urban School, flourished on the court but failed to mesh with her teammates or Boyle. She transferred to San Diego State, a program more destitute than Cal, and became the centerpiece in the Aztecs' dramatic transformation. Sneed didn't develop as a player, spending the majority of her career on the bench, but she never soured on Boyle or her teammates.

"Those guys wanted it," Boyle said. "They came to Cal because they were local kids and they really wanted to put this program on the map. In four short years, they really did that."

Boyle's early teams developed a reputation for sticky defense while stubbornly feeding the ball to Walker and Hampton, their stars in the post. With superior talent, winning came immediately, but the real difference maker was Boyle's people skills. The varied and nuanced relationships she forged with her players created a cohesive atmosphere. And, as the first group has graduated and other talented players have arrived, the atmosphere has remained constant.

"If you're going to be a coach and invest this much time in young adult's lives, you have to be about who they are," Boyle said. "I just don't think, the way this business presents itself today, you can walk into the gym and be with them for a couple of hours and walk out. That's not who I am. That's not why I got into the business."

A critical moment occurred in April 2007, following Boyle's second year in Berkeley. Gail Goestenkors, Boyle's mentor at Duke University, resigned and took the head coaching job at the University of Texas. Boyle was an assistant under Goestenkors for nine years prior to going to Richmond, a period during which Duke was wildly successful, becoming known, along with Tennessee, Connecticut, and Stanford, as one of the signature programs of the sport. Everyone in the sport assumed Boyle would leave Cal and take the opening at Duke, her alma mater.

After all, Boyle was from the East, growing up a few hundred miles away in Philadelphia and suburban Pittsburgh. Her extended family remained in pockets on the East Coast. And Boyle's mom was living alone, one year after Boyle's father had passed away in 2006. If she took the Duke position, her mother could attend Boyle's games, helping her through the grieving process.

For two weeks, Boyle weighed the factors. Her mom encouraged her to follow her heart. And Boyle did, deciding to stay at Cal and fulfill her original promise to her players: *"I know how to do this. We can do it together."*

Boyle's team had assumed she was going to Duke. When she didn't, they knew she had stayed for them. Her forthrightness was unblemished. The team returned the favor, win-

[illegible]

Alexis Gray-Lawson said Boyle is like her second mother

ning 27 games and earning a top-10 national ranking for the first time in school history. The team faltered in the NCAA tournament, losing to George Washington in the second round, as it still lacked the depth needed to make a deep run.

But with her decision to stay, Boyle could hit the recruiting trail with enormous power. No longer could other Pac-10 coaches recruit against her by saying she's got one foot out the door. And with two winning campaigns in the bank, incoming players could envision themselves as the missing piece.

No longer was Cal just a good team. Now it was a good program.

This year, after a pair of second-place finishes in the conference, Cal is picked to finish second again. UC Berkeley's three revenue sports — football and men's and women's basketball — have never captured an outright Pac-10 conference title dating back to 1978, when the original eight schools welcomed Arizona and Arizona State.

This lack of recent success is one disadvantage the programs face. High admission standards are also both a source of pride and a challenge in recruiting. Finally, African-American student athletes visit the campus and don't see that many similar faces. Currently, black students comprise just 4 percent of the student population.

And those are just the internal obstacles. Across the bay, Stanford has dominated women's basketball on the West Coast, capturing nine consecutive Pac-10 championships beginning in 2001. It's not a stretch to say that every aspiring female prep athlete in the country is familiar with Stanford because of Tara VanDerveer and her successful teams. This year, with superstar center Jayne Appel of Pleasant Hill, Stanford could field its best team ever. "She's got 25 years of history over there," Boyle said. "She's done it year after year after year. And we're still new."

In the last two years, 10,000 fans have packed Haas Pavilion for the Stanford game in hopes that Cal could bring about a changing of the guard. In January, with Gray-Lawson scoring a career-best 37 points, the Bears managed a narrow three-point win. The crowd roared with approval, while the Bears rushed the court to congratulate each other. The scene didn't go unnoticed by VanDerveer.

"It was as loud as I've ever heard it over here," she said. "It was a great crowd. People were into it."

Still it was just a bump in the road for the Cardinal. After the narrow loss, Stanford ripped off 18 wins in a row and went to the NCAA Final Four for the second straight season. Cal went on to win 27 games but had to settle for second place.

"Competing for a Pac-10 title is a monster of a challenge," Barbour said. "You're not talking about an easy feat."

After several winning seasons on the court, Boyle has parlayed her success on the recruiting trail. According to Glenn Nelson of HoopGurlz, a web site that chronicles college basketball recruiting, Boyle and her new assistants, Charmin Smith, a Stanford player who went on to play in the WNBA, and Kevin Morrison, a successful prep coach with an extensive background in Southern California and on the AAU circuit, have mastered the process. Seven new recruits, all rated in the top 150, have joined the Bears this semester. Last week, three more blue-chippers committed for 2010. Nation

Continued on page 18

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Google Navigator

by Mielle Sullivan, Janus Networks

Google has released what promises to be fierce competition to older, more established devices in their Google Maps Navigation cellular app. Designed to work on their Android platform, the app connects through your cell network to deliver real-time navigation, similar to a number of apps on the iPhone. The difference, though, is in the details.

With Google Navigation, your phone gets a lot more forgiving. For instance, you could type in "nearest Pete's Coffee house" and Google will figure out that you meant "Peet's Coffee & Tea", then locate the nearest one and start giving turn by turn directions in real time. You could also type "Coffee Shop" and wind up at the nearest coffee shop known to Google. With Google Navigator search and interpretive technology, you can search by business name, address, place or just a type of business – like a coffee shop or towing company.

Another trick feature is the voice-response search. Since locations like "Guggenheim Museum" can be difficult, or even lethal, to type while driving, Google devised a better way: just ask your phone to navigate you to the Guggenheim. Pronunciation may still be an issue, but once you get that worked out the phone interprets your speech and searches for it - automatically bringing up the best result and navigating you to it. Since it is connected to the Internet through Google, you can even ask things like "Navigate to the Kandinsky exhibit" – even if you don't know where that is exactly. Incidentally, the Kandinsky exhibit is at the Guggenheim, where you were already headed.

It also includes real time traffic data along your route in three colors: green, yellow or red. With the push of a button, the application will find you an alternate route to avoid heavy traffic.

The app incorporates some of the signature features from Google Earth and Maps, like a satellite view and layered displays of ATMs, Banks, Restaurants, Gas Stations and Parking. The ability to see actual overhead photographic information of your route without altering the route display is a nice advantage for drivers over the TomTom or Garmin units. With available Google Streetview, you can read the actual signs you'll be seeing in the next few miles and see what it all looks like at ground level.

Google is offering the application at the cost of your data package, that is to say, no additional cost.

Despite its advantages, Google Maps Navigation has limitations. While Internet connectivity and "smart" features like voice commands, step by step directions and instant access to Google Streetview may seem to make Google Navigator far superior to traditional car based GPS navigation, it is unlikely that we will see Garmin and TomTom close up shop in the next few weeks. First of all, it will only work when you have a solid data connection. While the Verizon network is solid, it still won't work everywhere. If you are touring Colorado on US 550, Google Navigator could leave you lost, while the GPS based Garmin will get you where you need to go.

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It Takes a Coach

Continued from page 17

ally Cal is the only school to attract consecutive top-10 recruiting classes. At the highest levels of college basketball, there is no substitute for top-notch talent.

But attracting two top talents in a two-year span creates a delicate balancing act for Boyle. Big-time players don't like watching from the sidelines, and in the coming years that likely will be the case. Following last year's breakout season, three reserves transferred, stating that they were looking for a campus that was a better fit. In the college game, that's often a euphemism used by players who want more time on the court. Boyle already doesn't make any promises in the recruiting process, and with increased numbers, the Bears will play faster and make more substitutions in attempt to wear down opponents in a transition game. And that's no small point. Boyle's Cal teams thus far have been talented but thin, suffering several notable late-game collapses.

Tierra Rogers was the most heralded of the seven freshmen. She made her mark as the defensive whiz for San Francisco's Sacred Heart Cathedral, a team so talented that it was undefeated and ranked number one nationally in Rogers' junior year. Like a lot of coaches, Boyle had Rogers in her sights early in the process. With proximity in Cal's favor, Rogers and her father, Terrell, became regular visitors to Berkeley, enamored with Boyle's successes.

But on a crystal-clear January night in 2008, during one of Rogers' games on the school campus, Terrell was murdered across the street from the gym as he took his customary halftime cigarette break. Two gunmen approached Terrell and another man and opened fire. Terrell's acquaintance, unharmed and untargeted, watched in horror. When the game resumed, Tierra was removed by her coach and notified by her principal in an adjacent classroom. Inside the gym, a gloom enveloped the crowd as the news spread.

Terrell's role as a community activist and mediator between gangs in San Francisco's Hunters Point neighborhood apparently led to his murder. And nearly two years later, the murder remains unsolved. On an ESPN *Outside the Lines* report, Guy Hudson, Terrell's close friend and Tierra's godfather, eerily declared that "everyone knows what happened." Sadly, in Terrell's case, the code of the streets trumped a murder investigation.

Boyle was there at courtside for Rogers' first game following her father's death. According to a column in *Sports Illustrated* by Chris Ballard, Rogers started the game but looked uncomfortable and never returned to the court once the second period began. But after the game, outside in the parking lot, Boyle and Tierra spoke.

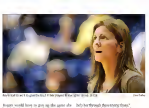
The coach's dialogue with Rogers continued after the murder, but Boyle says the conversations between her and the young player never touched on basketball. Boyle came to know a girl who spoke in the undeveloped rhythms of a teenager but with the depth of an old soul, the product of her difficult circumstances. Without her mentor, cheerleader, and father, Rogers considered giving up basketball entirely. But eventually, her evolving relationship with Boyle won out, and she committed to Cal during her senior year.

During an unsupervised on-campus workout this semester, Rogers, playing with her Cal teammates, grew short of breath and then collapsed in the hallway of the gym as medical staff attended to her. Rogers was hospitalized for more than two weeks, and it was discovered she has a rare heart condition that could have been fatal under the physical stress of a college season. Rogers was implanted with a defibrillator to maintain her heart's rhythm, and doctors told her she can never play basketball again.

A press conference was arranged, at which Boyle and Rogers made statements about how

Dave Duffy

Tierra Rogers was a standout defensive player from San Francisco who was highly recruited by several programs.



Boyle had to work to gain the trust of her players following her arrival at Cal.

Chris Duffey

Rogers would have to give up the game she loved. By the conclusion, Boyle was in tears, no doubt thinking about her own 2001 brush with mortality, when she was diagnosed with a genetic neurological condition that required brain surgery and a lengthy recovery process. Within that fight, Boyle gained an increased focus, which eventually brought her to Berkeley and kept her at Cal when Duke came calling.

"This is obviously devastating news for Tierra and her family," Boyle said in a statement. "We are here to stand by her 100 percent with whatever she needs. Obviously, basketball was a very precious part of her life, but she has a higher purpose here than just being a basketball player, and her health and well-being are our primary concern. Right now she can really use all the support and prayers she can get to help her through these trying times."

Privately, Boyle has tried to help Rogers realize a new purpose, a journey that she herself was quite familiar with. Rogers seems likely to retain her scholarship, and if the school needs that funding at some point, her education evidently will be paid for by a medical hardship program. Rogers also continues to attend team practices, and she and Boyle have apparently discussed coaching as a possible option.

The loss of Rogers on the court has left the Cal basketball family needing to fill a void. At a recent practice while Rogers was away for a medical appointment, Boyle stood at the court's perimeter, teaching the intricacies of the trap and the full-court press. Unlike previous years, when Boyle's passion in teaching might cross into menacing yelling, the coach's voice was calm; only the player she was instructing could hear her words in the cavernous gym. Eventually, each of the six freshmen received patient advice from Boyle during breaks. Meanwhile, assistants Smith Morrison and Jen Hoover focused on getting the team to react to how the opponent is moving the basketball, getting their feet pointed in the right direction and having the correct stance. These defenses are central to the Bears' new faster scheme, and on this day the process of absorption took the lion's share of the team's time on the court. It was at these very defenses that Rogers excelled at in high school.

Like the transition from defense to offense, Rogers now has Boyle to lead her in the transition from athlete to whatever comes next. Boyle went through a similar transition after leaving Duke as a standout player, and since then she's helped steer numerous other players through the process. The difference is Rogers' transition will be more dramatic, and filled with highs and lows. Already, Boyle says Rogers has had tough days coping, but on those days the coach makes sure she's with the team, still a part of Boyle's structured environment.

"I'm so glad she's here," Boyle confided. "I'm sick to my stomach about what's going on with her. She's supported, she's got great teammates, an administration that cares about her. What if she was somewhere else and didn't have the support system, sort of the new freshman on campus?"

On the court and off the court, in difficult circumstances, Boyle knows how to do this. And at Cal, like she promised, she and the Bears are doing it together. ●

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Rogers has continued to attend practices following the discovery of her career-ending heart condition, and Boyle remains close to he

Chris Duffey

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THE CAR WAS THEIR ART SHOW

Miguel Perez resurrects Berkeley's low-rider culture

By Rachel Swan

A couple weeks ago, Berkeley muralist Miguel "Bounce" Perez got an itch to turn his 1979 Sedan DeVille Cadillac into an art installation. He stuffed cushions in the back seat and hung a huge altar made of palm leaves and stereo speakers from the trunk. He placed a large projection board on the front window and planned to screen movies there — *City of God*, an experimental video with a lot of abstract lights, and a home movie of people talking about his deceased father, Paul Perez. Miguel drove his car out to a warehouse party on East 12th Street and 17th Avenue in East Oakland. It would have been a huge hit, he said, had the party not been shut down by Oakland police before it actually started. Nonetheless, Miguel was pleased with his Cadillac. It had ancestral significance, not only because of the altar — made for *Día de los Muertos* and for his father, who passed away in October — but because it connected him to a lineage of men who had all used cars as their artistic medium. Raised in a family of mechanics, handymen, and low-rider enthusiasts, thirty-year-old Miguel was just starting to connect with his roots.

Ergo Miguel's new low-rider exhibition at La Peña Cultural Center. Called "Hecho en Berkeley," it celebrates an unsung and largely undocumented Berkeley subculture. In the 1970s his father and uncles ran a car club called Pueblo Nuevo mostly out of home garages throughout West Berkeley (Miguel would later reappropriate the name for an art gallery he opened on San Pablo Avenue.) Paul Perez was a Filipino immigrant who hung out with a lot of Latino kids, including the brothers of his girlfriend Rosy, Miguel's mother. He worked as a gas station attendant throughout high school and learned about engine and body work. Paul could do surgery on automobile innards, but he was also an artist of sorts. He knew how to fix a ride up, make the wheels bump, and give it a pretty patina. "He was, like, the man of the car club," said Miguel. "He was the one that did all the work putting the hydraulics in everybody's car."

Paul Perez immigrated to the United States at age ten and eventually settled in West Berkeley. He became enamored of low-rider culture pretty early on. As a teen, he learned how to eviscerate and completely redesign a car's interior, tricking it out with crushed velvet seating, swivel chairs, hydraulic wheels, gold plating with diamond cuts, an opalescent glaze, and even a gold chain steering wheel ("The joke was they did that so they could drive with handcuffs," Miguel said.) In some cases he cut diamond-shaped holes for the car antennas, or removed the door handles and installed a switch right beneath the fender so the door opened with a kind of space-age expansiveness. The guys at Pueblo Nuevo would buy old Monte Carlos or Buick Rivieras, paint them the same candy-bright colors as their girlfriend's nail polish, and cruise up University Avenue at two miles an hour. "That was their art show," said Miguel. "That was their main advertising."

Event Details

Hecho en Berkeley runs through November 29 at La Peña Cultural Center (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) as part of the Hecho en Califas Festival. LaPena.org

Low-rider buffs formed their own self-contained art scene in West Berkeley. The men dressed in wallaby shoes, Pendleton shirts, and pleated pants — "everything was ironed real crispy," said Miguel. They listened to Chicano soul music and spent their weekends working on cars. Many of them would grow up to be craftsmen. Paul Perez ultimately ventured into home refinishing and woodwork, and helped Miguel build the Pueblo Nuevo Art Gallery in 2008. The women feathered their hair and wore jackets with "Homegirls de West Side Berkeley" inscribed on the back. They had shows at Laney College that were often twenty to thirty cars deep. Paul took photographs of their shiny outsides and sleek interiors, many of which reappear in his son's Hecho en Berkeley exhibit. The photos show red-and-white Impalas, a gold Monte Carlo, and a black Ford Thunderbird with a custom-made grill. Clustered among these vehicles are the characters who populated Pueblo Nuevo: Rosy, Carlos, Lita, Mr. Ray, Raymond, Eddie, Paul, and Jose "Baby" Ayala. The "Hecho en Berkeley" logo derives from those old homegirl jackets.

Miguel Perez with a photograph of his father Paul.

Joseph Schell

Miguel grew up in the same part of West Berkeley as his parents. By the time he was born, though, the old car clubs had been supplanted by a 1980s gang culture. "In the 1980s, people started seeing gangster movies and picking stuff up from Los Angeles," Miguel explained. "And cars got too expensive, you know?" Despite his environment, Miguel was too clean-cut to be a bona fide gang member himself. He attended St. Joseph's Catholic School, drew comic book characters, and geeked out on photography. He did, however, glom onto one aspect of the gang lifestyle: graffiti. At age ten, Miguel got into tagging. He started by writing his full name — Miguel Perez — out in cursive, and later got the nickname "Bounce," from the Roger and Zapp song "Bounce to the Ounce." His uncles taught him how to write in Cholo lettering, most of which derives from Olde English script. "Bounce" eventually traded his Sharpies for an aerosol spray can. As a Berkeley High School student, he launched his own city beautification project, bombing any wall that came within range. He got arrested a couple of times, but kept at it. Now he paints murals.

Low riders all but disappeared from Berkeley a couple decades ago, and many guests to the "Hecho en Berkeley" show might be surprised to hear that a scene ever existed in those parts. Some aspects of the scene rematerialized in scraper cars, the modified Buick Regals with big rims that became popular in Oakland during the hyphy era. But for the most part, contemporary car culture has revolved around the fetishization of brands. It wasn't like that in the 1970s, Miguel said. Indeed, the whole point of low-rider culture was to take a bucket that nobody wanted and turn it into a piece of art. "It was all about the modifications," he said. In that sense, Paul Perez and his brethren weren't mere hobbyists. They were artists working with scavenged materials. With low riders, they brought autobody work into the craft realm. ●

To share this story go to: ebx.sh/lowrider

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Andre Ward

Hometown Hitter

Oakland boxing champ Andre Ward returns to the Oracle this Saturday

The tension was thick on May 16, when Oakland boxer Andre Ward stepped into the ring at Oracle Arena. His eyes were trained on 28-year-old Edison Miranda, a mean-mugging Colombian fighter who gazed back with equal venom. By all accounts, it looked like a fair match. Ward stood one inch taller at six foot-one, with a tight, chiseled face and arms smothered in tattoos. By that point he'd won eighteen fights in his professional career, along with a gold medal from the 2004 Olympics in Athens. Miranda had prevailed in 30 fights, with 26 knockouts (about double Ward's record). Years of hand-to-hand combat had toughened Miranda's chest muscles, and caused his face to ossify into something cold and hard. Like Ward, he'd grown up in the 'hood, though Miranda's story had a lot more pathos. He was abandoned by his mom and left to fend for himself at a young age, in streets even rougher than inner-city Oakland. While Ward spent his teens punching Everlast bags and avoiding gang violence, Miranda picked plantains and butchered livestock. Not surprisingly, both men grew up to be super middleweight champs.

So it was down to the wire on that May evening. Ward started out on the offense, going toe-to-toe with Miranda and incurring a huge gash on his forehead — apparently the result of a head butt. In the second round Miranda threw a few hooks to Ward's face, as though to capitalize on the injury. But the hometown hero stood his ground and put up a stout defense. Fanatics generally agreed that Ward was the more agile technical player — kind of a traditional pugilist in contrast to the street-raised bruiser Miranda. Ultimately, technique won out over brawn. By the twelfth round Ward's eye had swollen visibly, but it didn't matter because Miranda was too fatigued to return punches. Ward trounced him. Fans rejoiced.

It's not just an impeccable boxing record that's made Ward a folk hero in Oakland. It's also his do-gooder sensibility and religious piousness (he frequently quotes scripture and is nicknamed "Son of God"). While some of his counterparts built their muscles through street brawls or hard manual labor, Ward launched a ruthless training regimen at King's Gym in Fruitvale — where his newspaper profiles still plaster the walls. And he wasn't just whacking a bag or running a treadmill. According to *Chronicle* sportswriter John Crumpacker, the young boxer trained for Athens by pushing his trainer's Cadillac around a parking lot at Cal State Hayward. To a bystander, that might seem an excessive degree of self-flagellation. But the payoff was phenomenal. At this point, Ward remains undefeated. He returns to the **Oracle Arena** (7000 Coliseum Way) on Saturday, Nov. 21, to spar 30-year-old Mikkel Kessler, a Danish boxer nicknamed with 41 wins under his belt. A couple weeks ago, Ward was back in boot camp. Stakes are high. 5 p.m. $35-$300. Coliseum.com.

— Rachel Swan

To share this story go to: ebx.sh/[illegible]/andreward

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

[illegible] 10th Anniversary Gala & Microbusiness Expo With a microfinance expo, live performances, a live and silent auction, international cuisine and awards to entrepreneurs. Thu., Nov. 19, 5-8 p.m. $40. Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-451-1900.

Nourishing Resistance: A Celebration to Benefit Critical Resistance Benefit for the prison-abolition group Critical Resistance featuring Angela Y. Davis, [illegible], Dessert, Art, and Clothing [illegible]. Thu., Nov. 19, 6:30 p.m. $40-$80. First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14th St., Oakland. 510-893-8229. [illegible]

Shopping Rhino Night at Gaia Join Rhino Family & Friends at a special Shopping Event Night at Gaia, San Francisco's Pioneer Gift Shop and Art Gallery in the Castro. A percentage of all proceeds go to help support Theater Rhinoceros. Thu., Nov. 19, 6-8 p.m. Gaia, 575 Castro St., San Francisco.

KIDS

Anime Club Anime discussion group for teens. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. Oaklandlibrary.org.

Art Classes for Children with Disabilities Ages 8-16 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Maximum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon. $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St. (Florence Ludwin Katz Gallery), Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADart.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m., $8. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Children's Kung Fu Oakland Taught by the monks from the Shaolin Buddhist Temple and Education Foundation. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $11. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Children's Philippine Folk Dance Joy Loyola teaches traditional Philippine folk dances on selected Sundays. Sundays, 1-3 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $150 a quarter (call to register). Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

An Intimate Conversation with Alison Gopnik Author and UC Berkeley Professor of Psychology discusses her work on baby development. Guests will receive a signed copy of Gopnik's *The Philosophical Baby* plus a wine reception and dessert bar. Proceeds benefit the museum. Fri., Nov. 20, 7-9 p.m. $150. Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

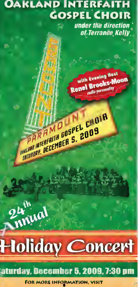
[illegible] with Henry Robinson On-site physicians are [illegible] and Oakland Pediatrics. Fourth Monday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. Henry Robinson Multiservice Center, 559 16th St., Oakland. 510-415-2310. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. 510-444-4328.

[illegible] Board Meeting Call 510-238-3400 for details. Third Thursday of every month, 5:15 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190 (Pacific Renaissance Plaza), Oakland. 510-238-3400. Oaklandlibrary.org.

Teen Comic Club For young fans of superhero entertainment. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. Oaklandlibrary.org.

Wildlife Wanders On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet more animals and learn cool nature facts. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m., Sundays, 1:45 p.m. Free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Leadership Council Meeting for middle- and high-school-aged youth. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.



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PICKS

Angela Davis

Three decades since she landed on the FBI's Most Wanted list for allegedly owning the shotgun that killed Marin County Judge Harold Haley, **Angela Davis** is still a household name. These days, she's better known as a public intellectual, UC Santa Cruz professor emeritus, and founder of the prison abolitionist group Critical Resistance. Davis will grace the **First Unitarian Church of Oakland** (685 14th St.) on Thursday, Nov. 19, at a benefit for her organization, appropriately titled **Nourishing Abolition**. Despite the gravitas of its theme, the event offers plenty of live entertainment — including performances by Destiny Arts Dancers, singer Spartha Sun, and spoken-word poet Climbing PoeTree. 6:30 p.m. $40-$80 sliding scale. CriticalResistance.org. *— Rachel Swan*

Art Engines

Art, [illegible], and nature colide during the premier of **Art Engines** on Saturday, Nov. 21, at **Johansson Projects** (2300 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley). Renowned recording engineer and Grammy Awards nominee Oliver DiCicco will access the mechanics of sound through the humming of nature as Barry Underwood's photographs, contemporary paintings, and cinema reveal earth's landscapes. Underwood is an international artist and professor of film and photography. DiCicco's sounds are depicted through dynamic mechanic devices and sculptures rather than static radio speakers. The duo's show should be both mysterious and inviting as attendees lapse in the unlawful unity of indoor nature. 5 p.m.-8 p.m., free. JohanssonProjects.com. *— Alison Alter*

Cal Women's Basketball

A Sunday mat[illegible] the way to see the Bears. The **California Golden Bears women's basketball team** takes on the Baylor Bears of Waco, Tex., in the first day game of the 2009-2010 season. Cal is coming off its best season in years and is ranked sixth in the nation. The Blue and Gold will go on the road as soon as this game's in the books, traveling to Ohio for the Buckeye Classic next weekend. Then the Bears will spend December finishing up a slate of non-league opponents before starting [illegible] with a road trip against Stanford, UCLA, and USC. No hibernating for our Bears this winter. On Sunday, Nov. 22, at **Haas Pavilion** (Bancroft Way at Dana St., Berkeley). 2 p.m. $5-$12. CalBears.com *— Kibby Kleiman*

Things Taken: Rethinking Thanksgiving

There's a reason that Andi Luckey gets [illegible] La Peña each year for his anti-Thanksgiving celebration — and it's not only because of the venue's political stance against Pilgrims and turkey dinners — though that's certainly part of it. Luckey produced **Things Taken: Rethinking Thanksgiving** with a clear-cut social purpose, but it's also a pretty entertaining show. Not only is the host a nimble storyteller and lyricist, he also knows how to pack a lineup. This year's event features the hip-hop group BROWN BFLO, along with poet Raphael Cohen and several activist speakers (Ann Marie Sayers, Madonna Thunder Hawk, Robert M. Owens, Aurora Levins Morales, and the Indigenous Youth Delegation to Palestine). Flanked by La Peña's new, appropriately themed exhibit of Leonard Peltier paintings, they'll present speeches, spoken word, hip-hop, and theater — all to challenge the old yarns about Squanto and the Plymouth colony. On Sunday, Nov. 22, at **La Peña Cultural Center** (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). 7 p.m. $10-$15. LaPena.org. *— R.S.*

E&A

free. [illegible] Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St. (Oakland History Room), Oakland. 510-238-3222. OaklandLibrary.org.

LGBT

East Bay Front Runners Join the LGBT group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. Free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-583-8740.

[illegible] 20s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their 20's in the East Bay. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Grand Re-Opening of the Bench and Bar & Little Explosion With Go-Go dancers. Fri., Nov. 20, 9 p.m. Bench & Bar, 510 17th St., Oakland.

LGBT Weight Watchers Meeting E-mail [illegible] for more info. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $8.22-$12. Through Kaleva Hall, 1970 Chestnut St. (upstairs), Berkeley.

LOUD Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Wednesdays: youth leadership. Thursdays: hot topics/guest speakers. Fridays: queer movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m., Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m., free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Transgender Legal Clinic AIDS Project East Bay and the Transgender Law Center sponsor a monthly legal clinic, wherein you can visit one-on-one with an attorney for [illegible] transgender legal issues. Third Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Transgender Law Center, 1800 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-865-0176. TransgenderLawCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

[illegible] Quiz Trivia game for cash and prizes. Tuesdays, 9 p.m. Free. [illegible], 2211 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

Irreverent Trivia Night hosted by [illegible] Terry Mangan. [illegible] p.m. Free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

The Living Philosophers Group A moderated discussion group. Fridays, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Scrabble Club The club meets two to three times a month and holds a monthly tournament (time TBA) that costs $35 for six games. Third and First Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. $1. It's Your Move Boardgame Website, 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-547-4FUN (4386). ItsYourMoveGames.com.

Walnut Creek Socrates Cafe A moderated discussion group. Every other Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. [illegible] Cafe La Scala, 1608 N Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-7778.

Weekly Sing-Alongs Led by [illegible]. Free. Drop-in, all ages, no experience necessary. Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

[illegible] Windsurfing Lessons Class is limited to the first 20 people who sign up. Includes orientation, [illegible], simulator demonstrations, light drills, instructor advice, and opportunity to receive [illegible] rating after open book test. For info, visit CalSailing.org. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. Free. Cal Sailing Club, 124 University Ave., Berkeley Marina, Berkeley.

Introduction to Outdoor Rock Climbing: REI Outdoor School Outing Workshop teaches fundamental skills such as belaying, rock climbing, and free climbing. Climbing gear provided. Hosted by REI Santa Rosa. Contact any REI Bay Area customer service to register, or visit REI.com/OutdoorSchool. Sat., Nov. 21, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. $85-$100. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

REI Winter Sale Fri., Nov. 20, 10 a.m. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Andre Ward vs. [illegible] Super Middleweight World Championship Boxing Sat., Nov. 21, 5 p.m. $37, $66, $150, $300. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors vs. Portland Trailblazers Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. $15-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Nba.com.

Oakland Raiders vs. Cincinnati Bengals Sun., Nov. 22, 1:15 p.m. $36-$200. McAfee Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121. Coliseum.com. Raiders.com.

UC Berkeley Men's Basketball vs. Jacksonville Tue., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. $10-$22. Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way and Dana Sts), Berkeley. 510-642-0580 at Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley campus. 800-GO-BEARS. calbears.collegesports.com/

UC Berkeley Women's Basketball vs. Baylor Sun., Nov. 22, 2 p.m. $5-$12. [illegible] Haas Pavilion, UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way and Dana Sts), Berkeley. 510-642-0580. 800-GO-BEARS. CalBears.collegesports.com.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 600 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Ambiguous Times, by Christina Koci Hernandez.

Performance

Christina Koci Hernandez explores identity and spectacle

The Roman poet Lucretius, explaining the imagination, declared "There are a great many films, films from the surface of objects flying about ... in all directions. When these encounter one another in the air they easily amalgamate ... [and] penetrate through the chinks of the body and set in motion the delicate substance of the mind within." Balzac had a similar intuition which caused him to fear being photographed, conceiving of human bodies as "a series of ghostly images superimposed in layers to infinity, wrapped in infinitesimal films ... [which] each Daguerrian operation [would] ... detach and use up," according to his photographer friend Nadar.

Christina Koci Hernandez's photographs in ***Ambiguous Times*** may not make viewers fear for their subjects' precious bodily images, but there is a phantasmal aspect to these low-tech, plastic Holga camera images of performers barely emerging from an inky Bill Brandt blackness. Hernandez employs the instincts honed in her photojournalism career to investigate the self-presentation and visual manipulation practiced by neo-burlesque strippers, lucha libre wrestlers, and performers in the daily street pageant. The traditions of street and subculture photography derive, of course, from 19th-century realism, but Hernandez combines empathy and satire with objective observation. "I enjoy tiptoeing around the lives I follow ... I admire the lack of inhibition ... So many subjects I photograph are capable of confronting life head-on, less concerned than many as to what the opinions of others might be." Hernandez's use of an inexpensive, ingratiatingly cute toy camera probably grants her a degree of freedom — both from interference and to experiment — that the usual electronic-eye SLR would not; it also insists that art derives from sensibility, and not gadgetry.

Susan Sontag characterized photography as benign predation. Hernandez's image-captures from the *Tease* series include "Garter," a stairwell glimpse of a performer adjusting her stocking backstage, and "Hold Her," a shadowy view of two women tangoing in black slips. Highlights from the *Everyday Mutations* series include "Luchador," a powerful masked figure poised to spring from the canvas; and "Cruel Fiction," a robed fighter kneeling with arms outstretched and head bowed to the unpassive audience, suggesting gladiatorial morituri salutes to their emperor. From *The City* series comes "Urban Resolve," a woman in white crossing a darkened street beneath the familiar radiant pedestrian sign, and "Ambiguous Times," a worried-looking woman, overly made up, ambling through Arbusville. *Ambiguous Times* runs through November 28 at **Slate Art and Design** (4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), SlateArtAndDesign.com or 510-652-0485.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, go to: *ebx.ly/p/ambiguous*

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space: The Robot Taxonomy Project Exhibit curated by the Robot Appreciation Institute (under the direction of Clint K. Baughtry). Presents new bas-relief art works based on different stages from the Robot Taxonomy. The RAI will take reports, provide ideas about unusual robot activity and original the Robot Taxonomy. Through Dec. 6. 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263, 21Grand.org.

57th Street Gallery: Jazz Art Lavette Aber, Valerie Ragsdale, Marie Mutra, Russell Katz, Stuart Rodgers, and Renee Hinsand present paintings of John Coltrane, Billie Holiday, Quincy Jones, Dave Brubeck, and other jazz musicians. [illegible] Receptions Sat.-Sun., Oct. 24-25, Nov. 21-22, Dec. 19-20 with refreshments and live jazz. Through Dec. 20. 5233 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-0014, 57thStreetGallery.com.

ABCo Warehouse Space: Challenge of Warehouse Community art exhibit commenting on Oakland Memories. Through Dec. 19. 3135 Filbert St., Emeryville, ABCOArtSpace.com.

Aeon Gallery: The Big Frame-Up Featuring framed and carved art in original frames. Through Nov. 31. 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-845-4549, AeonGallery.com.

[illegible] Gallery Oakland: Aquatecture Sculpture by Bob Dunbar. Through Dec. 4. 2022 3rd St., [illegible], [illegible].

Berkeley Art Center: Metaphysical Abstraction: Contemporary Approaches to Spiritual Silence Group show curated by Jamie Granger and Michelle Marrero. Through Nov. 29. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley, 510-644-6893, BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Art Museum: The Abu Ghraib Paintings about the Colombian painter Fernando Botero. Through Feb. 7, 2010. 2625 Durant Ave. (UC Berkeley campus), Berkeley, 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

[illegible]: The Human Journey Former [illegible] poetry, prose, and portals [illegible] near-death experience. Through Dec. 6. 2500 Blanding Ave., Alameda.

Cal State East Bay University Art Gallery: Spiritual Renewal, Chinese Renewal Selection of works from major collections by artists of the Zen tradition. Through Dec. 3. **Chinese Spiritual Vessels at CSU East Bay** A collection of 80 Chinese vessels of the Zeng tradition. Starting Nov. 23. Mondays-Fridays, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Mondays-Fridays 12:30-3:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 3. [illegible] 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. (CSUEB campus), Hayward, 510-885-3299, [illegible].

[illegible] Gallery: The Gift of Art new works by Cyrill Collins, Carol [illegible], Lan Goldman, Anne Hunter Hamilton, [illegible], Ann Holsberry, Jennifer Kent, Grayson Marshall, Lucy Munger, Kevin Herman, Emily Payne, Margaret [illegible], Carol Lee Marshall, [illegible], Gail Stoff, [illegible] and Judith [illegible]. Through Jan. 17, 2010. 12-5 p.m. [illegible] 1889-B Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible], [illegible].

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: [illegible]: Longing for the Background Through Nov. 21. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland, 415-5[illegible], ChandraCerrito.com.

[illegible] Around the World: [illegible] Human at 25 With work by Dwight Mackintosh, Judith Scott, Rohan Egart, Lolita Heinie, Regina Bouvard, William Scott, Dan Miller, David Albertson, Aurie Ramirez, Donald Mitchell, [illegible], William Tyler and Dwight Mitchell. Through Nov. 20. 355 24th St., Oakland, 510-836-2340, CreativeGrowth.org.

Crown Point Press: Through and Construction: Looking at Abstraction Etchings by [illegible]. Through Nov. 28. 20 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, 415-974-6273, CrownPoint.com.

[illegible] Institute California: [illegible] Photo Black and white photographs of [illegible] people. Through Dec. 1. 1872 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1762.

Eclectic Gallery: [illegible] Halloween exhibition featuring work by Patrick Kirkes, Sean Chappel, James Ivey, [illegible], and many other artists. Through Nov. 30. 10092 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-

KIDS PAINT THE TOWN

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by Enda Walsh

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In the same league as such great Irish playwrights as Conor McPherson and Martin McDonagh, Enda Walsh is a master at spinning tales that are wrapped in both humor as well as tragedy. Ireland's acclaimed Druid theater company has enthralled theatergoers around the world with Walsh's *The Walworth Farce*. Lurching from moments of high absurdity to shocking realism, this brilliant gothic comedy employs all the tricks of fast-paced farce, including rapid-fire costume changes, cross-dressing, and mistaken identity. The work won a Fringe First Award at the 2007 Edinburgh Festival, and played to rave reviews in New York in 2008.

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra

Long Yu, *music director & conductor*

Yuja Wang, *piano*

Sun, Nov 22, 3 pm, Zellerbach Hall Tickets start at $28

One of Asia's oldest orchestras, the Shanghai Symphony celebrates its 130th anniversary with a rare U.S. tour. Joining the orchestra in Berkeley is pianist Yuja Wang. "To hear her in action is to re-examine whatever assumptions you may have had about how well the piano can actually be played," says the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Program: [illegible]

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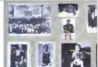
PICKS

The Abu Ghraib Series

The waterboarding of Iraqi detainees by U.S. troops was mocked by many FOX-bitten supporters of our misadventure in Iraq, but the Abu Ghraib photographs that surfaced in 2004 were indefensible and disgraceful: naked captives, attack dogs, electrical wires, sexual taunting. (Close your eyes and think of Lynndie England et al. — and their legalistically fig-leafed superiors.) The Colombian painter **Fernando Botero** was inspired by this madness to create, over fourteen months, a series of 96 paintings and drawings featuring his trademark plus-size doll-like figures as jailer and victim; the works draw on and join a history of martyrdom depictions both religious (Michelangelo, Rubens) and secular (Goya, Daumier, Golub). It's strong medicine; irresponsible persons [illegible], open wide. Botero generously donated the entire series to UC Berkeley. A minor quibble here: dim lighting. ***The Abu Ghraib Series*** runs through February 7 at **Berkeley Art Museum** (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.berkeley.edu. — *DeWitt Cheng*



Detail of Sunaura Taylor's untitled work. David Cheng

Animal

While new books and movies indict American industrial farming's hormones, sugar, downer animals, and excrement ponds (and inhumane cruelty), the award-winning Oakland animal rights activist and artist **Sunaura Taylor** takes a mordant look here at body-image consciousness — our instinctive aversion to abnormality. Some animals are indeed more equal than others, as Orwell's Squealer proclaimed. Taylor's painting, "Animals with Arthrogryposis," depicts various lame animals (Figs. A, B and D) along with the artist herself, nude and stooping (Fig. C), all afflicted with a congenital but not hereditary joint deformation (the name means curved or hooked joints); yellow arrows connote stagnation and defecation. No less ferocious/lethal is Taylor's wall display of altered photocopies, juxtaposing images of sideshow freaks, medical curiosa, and slabs of meat — just carve along the dotted line. Disturbing and provocative. Are we not men? ***Animal*** runs through November 28 at **Rowan Morrison Gallery** (330 40th St., Oakland). RowanMorrison.com or 510-384-5344. — *D.C.*

M G

384-2261. EsteraGallery.com.

Fotoviduo. Fotoviduo [illegible] Monthly event provides aspiring and professional photographers a theater to exhibit their work. With a theater dinner. Dec. Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m. Free. 2105 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley.

Lobdi Gallery. Shelter in Place Featuring work by Sue [illegible], Chris Field, and Aaron Gorson. Art Murmur reception Fri., Dec. 4, 7-10 p.m. at Gallery. Dec. 31. 35 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-2500. [illegible].com.

Shapiro/Gravity Gallery. Lawrence Ferlinghetti: Evolution of a Painter Paintings by Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Through Dec. 30. 77 Geary St., San Francisco. 415-391-9308.

Hearst Art Gallery / Saint Mary's College. Out of This World: Landscapes of our Solar System Art and science exhibition curated by gallery director Carrie Brewster and astrophysics professor Brother [illegible]. Featuring computer simulation of [illegible] Valley on Mars, plus detailed photographs taken by Mars Rover and Voyager 1 and 2. Through Dec. 13. 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. 925-631-4379. StMarys-CA.edu/arts/hearst-art-gallery.

Intersection for the Arts. One Day: A Collective Narrative of Tehran Multi-media exhibit featuring the work of eight artists living in Tehran, Iran, by Neda Alaaifah, Saba Alizadeh, Mohammad Ghazali, Ghazaleh Hedayat, Abbas Kowsari, Peyman Mehran, [illegible], and Homayoun Sirizi, alongside new work by San Francisco-based artist Kenneth [illegible]. Through Jan. 23, 2010. 446 Valencia St., San Francisco. 415-626-3311.

Joyce Gordon Gallery. Paintings Exhibition of photographs, photograms, and paintings by [illegible]. Through Dec. 29. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Gold Frames — Art in [illegible] Second annual exhibition of limited-edition lithographs, art, gig posters, show prints, and [illegible]. Reception: First Fridays, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4, 6-8 p.m. (sushi provided by [illegible]). Through Jan. 30, 2010. 813 22nd St., Oakland. 510-815-0123. [illegible].com.

Mecho en Califas: [illegible] Low-Rider [illegible] Multimedia exhibit on Berkeley's low-rider culture by Miguel "Bounce" [illegible]. Through Nov. 28. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

[illegible] Feeling the [illegible] Black and white photographs of blues musicians by Charles [illegible]. Through Jan. 8, 2010. 101 8th St., [illegible] MetroCenter, Oakland. 510-817-5822.

Mercury 20 Gallery. [illegible] Featuring [illegible] and mixed media by Jo Ann Biagini, Chela Fleming, Tara Evans, and Charlie Milgrim. Through Nov. 28. **Last Walk** Featuring work by Peter Honig and Kathleen King. Through Nov. 28. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-701-4620.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices: The Art of [illegible] from Shanghai Images of the Shanghai fabrication of components for the new steel span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Through Jan. 8, 2010. **Flora and Fauna** Group multimedia show by the artists of [illegible] Program at Stepping Stones Growth Center. Gallery. Nov. 30. Free. **Berkeley & Cold** Photo exhibit by Karl Nelson, featuring images from his trip to Antarctica. Through Jan. 8, 2010. 101 8th St. (Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 3rd floor), Oakland. 510-464-7773.

Mills College Art Museum: [illegible] Gallery and [illegible]: A Photographic Journey With photographs by Vivian Stephenson and [illegible] by Catalina Caulfield. Through Dec. 13. **A Room of Their Own** The Bloomsbury artists in American collections, curated by Nancy E. Green. Gallery. Dec. 13. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

MOCHA — Museum of Children's Art. Ride Paint The Town More than 600 pieces of kids' art will be displayed in storefront windows and empty storefronts in Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro. Kicks off Nov. 7 with a College Avenue art stroll. Through Nov. 26. 538 9th St. (Suite 210), Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

Pro Arts Gallery. Center for Cultural Innovation: Grant Workshop 2.5 hour workshop on grantwriting for artists. Registration limited to 40 participants. Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m. $12. Members $10. Email [illegible]. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery. Everything I [illegible] I Remember in Memory An exploring memory by Kevin Parks Houser and Carrie Hott. Gallery. Nov. 29, 7-9 p.m. Free. 415-234-6308. RoyalNonesuchGallery.com. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Gallery. [illegible] Group Show. Through Dec. 30. 2228 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-1083. [illegible].com.

Smokey's Tangle. Heathens and Gothic Folks: New Works by Seth Vaughan Closing reception Sat., Nov. 21, 6-10 p.m. Gallery. Nov. 21. 4309 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. SmokeysTangle.com.

Swarm Studios + Gallery. V Solo exhibition of work by [illegible]. Gallery. Dec. 6. **Living Room** Solo installation by [illegible]. Through Dec. 6. 560 2nd St. (#4), Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmStudios.net.

The Crucible Gallery of Art. 4ARTS: glass, clay, optics. [illegible] Featuring work by Alex [illegible], Billy Herbert, Bobby [illegible], Erik Dunbar, Christopher [illegible], Courtney Johnson, Heather Wilson, Kara Crago, Jared [illegible], Jensen Smith, Kathleen [illegible], Laura van [illegible], Matt [illegible], Rob [illegible], Richard [illegible], [illegible] and Sharon Nelson. Gallery. Dec. 18. [illegible] Building, 1635 Broadway, Oakland. TheCrucible.org/gallery.

[illegible] Art Gallery. Perception/Reality Nov. 20-Jan. 30. 5043 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-4251.

Trax Gallery. [illegible] Nov. 21-Dec. 24. 1812 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-540-8729. traxgallery.com.

Traywick Gallery. Gatherings Solo exhibition of works on paper by Bay Area artist Lena Wolff. Through Dec. 12. **Processing Everything** Solo exhibition by San Francisco artist [illegible] featuring work in vinyl collage. Gallery. Dec. 13. 895 Colusa Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-1214. Traywick.com. ■

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DARK RIVER AHEAD

Oakland Opera recreates the Fannie Lou Hamer story

By Rachel Swan

When you drop a pebble in a stream, it forms concentric circles on the surface of the water. You could say that image symbolizes change — or at the very least, disruption. Thus, it seems apropos that Oakland Opera artistic director Tom Dean designed the set for *Dark River: The Fannie Lou Hamer Story* with circles as a predominant motif. (One need look no further than word "river" to know it's a story of movement and change.) In Dean's set, brown spherical disks adorn a transparent curtain that's framed by cotton buds, all painted with curlicue stems and flowers in black and white as in an antebellum pinafore. Cotton represents a sordid past, and the curtain promises to open up to something new — starting on the day that a black woman from Mississippi decided to exercise her right to vote.

Though she wasn't a central figure in the civil rights movement, Hamer makes a perfect character for an opera. Born to sharecroppers, Fanny Lou Hamer (née Townsend) was the youngest of twenty children. She came up hard, forced to leave school after sixth grade and condemned to a life in the fields. At a young age she married fellow sharecropper Pap Hamer, moved to another plantation shack, and started a family of her own. Hardscrabble beginnings helped Hamer get a thick skin (she's the person responsible for such quotations as "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired," a prominent refrain in *Dark River*) and a tender heart. She was known for speaking plain and constantly invoking the Bible. She was, in other words, the archetypal heroine of melodrama — one who, by suffering, becomes virtuous.

In this case, "melodrama" is a compliment. After all, what is opera but "melos" (i.e., song) and "drama" at their most extreme? *Dark River* starts off heavy, with the specter of Emmett Till (Hannifah Hassan Evans) dancing behind the curtain while the cast members emerge with their pitchforks and rakes. They sing a haunting number about justice and remembering the past, which closes on a jazz chord. Then we're instantly shuttled back to a 1920s-era cotton plantation, where young Fannie Townsend (Bolanle Origunwa) plays patty cake with her sisters under the watchful eye of her mother Lou Ella (Jeannine Anderson). The narrative skips around a bit, but mostly focuses on Hamer's activism in the 1960s, which began after she heard a sermon by Reverend James Bevel urging African Americans to vote. Mesmerizing soprano Ria Simons stars as the adult Hamer.

Composer Mary D. Watkins and director Darryl V. Jones created *Dark River* as an ensemble piece, though it features several climactic moments of Simons singing by herself, often from a podium, usually addressing other members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Mississippi, always framed by cotton buds. Simons vivifies the character, who apparently was a singer in her own right. She stares unflinchingly at the white cops and racists who try to bring her down, and at the Democrats who sneer when Hamer and fellow activists disrupt their 1964 National Convention. *Dark River* reaches its peak when Hamer delivers one of her most famous speeches to the Democratic Convention's Credentials Committee. "Is this America, the land of the free and the home of the brave?" she asks, hitting a long cadenza on brave. "They harm us, they lynch us, they make our lives hell." The word hell is a protracted high note, beautiful and bracing and probably two octaves beyond the average singer's range. At a recent Sunday matinee it drew an audible "All right, girl!" from the audience.

Show Details
Dark River runs through Nov. 22 at Oakland Metro Operahouse (630 3rd St.). $14-$28. OaklandMetro.org

But Simons stands in good company. Singer Jeannine Anderson, who plays minor characters throughout the play but is well known for her singing on local jazz projects, is also a phenomenal presence. She and Simons both know how to manhandle this material, which is no easy feat. But for a few upbeat gospel tunes that feature the whole chorus, most of the songs sound through-composed (meaning nonsectional, with no sing-songy melody to latch onto). Watkins' music mixes jazz and blues in a nontraditional way, often requiring singers to wrangle with complex harmonies or chord tones. It takes a capable musician not only to understand this stuff but also to give it the emotional heft it needs.

Oakland Opera Theater is a budget company whose members know how to use resources. Their flagship venue, the Oakland Metro Operahouse, includes a proscenium stage and a large floor space that's subject to endless reconfiguration. In this case, Dean had the audience flank both sides of a long walkway, which served as an extension of the stage. Music director Deirdre McClure stood in one wing, conducting her six-piece orchestra (piano, strings, reeds, drums, and keyboard). A second stage hung in the rafters just above the bar. Decked in wood paneling, it served as the set for Fanny and Pap's small plantation home. Jones typically had multiple planes of action going at once, with Emmett Till appearing in the background while the ensemble stood in front.

That setup worked for a play that's preoccupied with connecting things — the personal to the political, the particular to the general, the past to the future. Watkins chose to gloss over details of Hamer's personal life and focus instead on her activism, particularly the events leading up to the 1964 Convention. *Dark River* culminates in 1966, the year Hamer was asked to leave the SNCC. (In the play, Hamer lost face because she favored integration over the predominating view that whites should go back and educate their own communities.) It's a bold note for Watkins to end on, and one that she manages to make hopeful. I'll spare you the ending, but "hope" should give a bit of a clue. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.by.pt/darkriver

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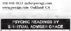

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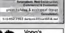

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A.R.T. In Season Jeremy Cole directs this production of Arlene Hutton's drama about a 19th-century Shaker community, featuring 9 women singing a capella. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Thu., Nov. 19, 8 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21. $12-$15. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5580.

Ghostsplainer! Central Works presents a new comedy about the biological imperative written by Aaron [illegible] and Cynthia Reilly, and directed by Mary Ashmore-Gibb. For reservations, call 510-558-1381. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22. $14-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-7800. BerkeleyCity-Club.com.

Dark Altar New opera [illegible] on the Faustian Leo Hammer story, product written by Mary F. [illegible] with assistance from [illegible]. Conducted by Robert McClure. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22. $19. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

Druid Ireland Performing *The Walworth Farce* by Enda Walsh. Post-performance talk with members of the company on Nov. 20. Nov. 17-21, 8 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 21, 2 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 22, 3 p.m. $72. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerfs.Berkeley.edu.

Fat Pig By Neil LaBute, directed by Barbara Damashek. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m.; Thu., Dec. 3, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 6. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

The Ajax Syndrome Play about four UK soldiers who return from Afghanistan to murder each other. Directed by Marc [illegible] and choreographed by Nina Haft, with original music by Rafael Hernandez. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 22, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22. $5-$20. Cal State East Bay University Theatre, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward. CSUEastBay.edu.

Large Animal Games Steve Yockey's new play deals with relationships and big game hunting. Directed by Mathew Hilleran. No performance Nov. 26. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 12. $12-$47. LaVal's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

Sparkle Stage version of the 1976 film. Directed by Sean Vaughn Scott. Saint [illegible] champagne galas on Nov. 14 & Dec. 20. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 5. $18-$45. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-2120.

Things Taken Music, dance, spoken word, and hip-hop theater, featuring Adel [illegible] Luckey's solo piece *Free Land*. Sun., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. $8-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Tiny Kushner West Coast premiere of the play written by Tony Kushner and directed by Tony Taccone. Through Nov. 29. $13.50-$71. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

The Wizard of Oz directed by Jon Tracy, with musical direction by Phil Gorman and choreography by Megan Wynn. Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 22, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 8. $18, $15, $16. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

The Great Liberation Upon Hearing! Starts [illegible] directed a multimedia dance drama Starts on the Theater; book of the dead. Visit DanceMission.com for more info. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22. $17-$25. Nov. 19 is pay-what-you-can. Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-0543.

LIVE VARIETY

Apollo 69th Style A youth competition for professional and thousand performers. Third Saturday of every month, 8-11 p.m. $5-$10. Black Repertory Theater, 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-652-2120.

Steps in the Works 2009 Live work performances selected by choreographers. Performance Alliance and Eighth Street Studio. For info, visit [illegible].org. Saturdays, Sundays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Nov. 22. $10. Eighth Street Studio, 2525 Eighth St. #16, Berkeley. 510-527-1455.

COMEDY

3rd Annual Multicultural Stand-Up Berkeley Festival Sat., Nov. 21, 8 p.m. $12-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Debby Wayden featuring Robert Duchaine Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 21, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. $10-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Chris Storm Tue., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. $10. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Hook Ups Wed., Nov. 25, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Nov. 27, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Nov. 28, 7 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 29, 7 p.m. $10-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

[illegible] Revisited Wed., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m. $17-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

PICKS

Diablo Ballet's 16th Season

A rich and varied art form, ballet is so much more than tiaras and pink tutus (though many of us still think said tiaras are pretty awesome — just saying). Presenting highlights from ballet's [illegible] style, **Diablo Ballet**'s sixteenth repertory season is a mixed bill that will please ballet-lovers and intrigue the ballet-curious. In *Coppélia*, a sweet and comedic 1870 tale of a doll that comes to life, the company revives one of the world's favorite ballets (probably no tiaras, but count on a tutu or two). Twentieth-century stardom emerges in *Apollo*: George Balanchine's 1928 masterpiece set to a Stravinsky score, this sublime expression of power and grace, earth and spirit still looks modern today. And contemporary ballet gets a nod in *Fête for Three*, a new work created for Diablo Ballet by heralded choreographer and Limón Dance Company alum Gary Masters. At the **Lesher Center for the Arts** (1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek) on Friday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., $24-$48. DiabloBallet.org — *Claudia Bauer*

David Allen

Fat Pig

Fat phobia may be a real and palpable thing, but it doesn't have to be — well, heavy. Not according to director Barbara Damashek, whose interpretation of the new Neil LaBute drama, *Fat Pig*, includes a string of winking references (e.g., use of Queen's "Fat Bottom Girls" in the play's climax). It's a vicious, funny, and shrewd exploration of body consciousness and shame. The twist here is that women's bodies aren't necessarily the centerpiece of the play. Rather, they serve as a repository for male characters to fling their insecurities. Enter Tom (Jud Williford), the good-looking, eager-to-please office worker who falls for a smart, pretty fat girl named Helen (Liliane Klein), whose name is a not-so-veiled allusion to another famous Helen. They enter into a closet relationship but ultimately get found out by Tom's co-worker Carter (played with sadistic glee by Peter Ruocco) and former love interest Jeannie (Alexandra Creighton). Thus begins a neat morality tale in which Tom tries — and ultimately fails — to reconcile his affection for Helen with his desire to fit into a male social order. Everything in the play symbolizes something else, from the characters' names to the basketball court drawn on the floor and Helen's compulsive eating (which seems to be more about filling an existential void than physical hunger). It's an appetizing production. Through Dec. 6 at **Aurora Theatre** (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). AuroraTheatre.org — *Rachel Swan*

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CRAFT & CULTURAL ARTS GALLERY
November 16 – December 31, 2009

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-from Oakland, with love

Curated by Isabel-Anne Palacios
Showcasing mixed media homages in honor of our dearly departed.

Día de los Muertos is a [illegible] holiday in the Mexican culture. It has taken on new adaptations and transforms many of its traditions over the years. We invite you to bring your offerings [illegible]

3rd Thursday Events:
Opening Reception: Thursday, November 19th 5-8pm
Initiation of ofrendas by Danza Mexica / Azteca group – In Xochitl In Cuicatl 6:30pm

Please bring a non original photo of a departed loved one that you would like to place on our community altar. Come in a calavera mask or paint your face that evening!

Refreshments Sponsored by La Borinqueña Mex-icatessen

Closing Reception & Gallery Talk: Thursday December 17, 5-8pm
Reception and Events are part of "Third Thursday – Oakland Art Night"

Gracias to all the amazing artists and community members who made this show possible. For more information and to see list of artists visit: TuraTuirado.com

CRAFT & CULTURAL ARTS GALLERY
State of California Office Building – Atrium, 1515 Clay St., Oakland CA 94612
Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm, free to the public

LECTURES&LIT

A Man, a Van, a Plan

Melanie Gideon charts a midlife crisis in *The Slippery Year*

Melanie Gideon

When she found out that her husband had bought a dead man's van over the Internet, **Melanie Gideon** wanted to give it back. The seller was the bereft mother of the 4X4's original owner, an avid kayaker who, having driven it to some remote shore, "went out in his boat and never returned," Gideon writes in *The Slippery Year*, her memoir about a midlife crisis experienced in and out of that hulking five-ton Ford that was "built to climb rock gorges and traverse rivers" — which her husband didn't give back, and in which the couple traveled around the American West with their nine-year-old son and the family dog.

Gideon is one of six authors set to mix and mingle during a Saturday, November 21, Book Group Salon and Wine-Tasting at **Books Inc.** (1460 Fourth St., Berkeley). Also on hand will be Susannah Carson, Meg Waite Clayton, Annie Barrows, Michelle Richmond and Cara Black.

The Slippery Year began as a "Modern Love" column in the *New York Times*. As a nod to her beloved Dr. Seuss, Gideon originally titled the essay "Green Eggs and Van." She loved that name, "but apparently the *Times* did not," she remembers now. "They changed the title to 'A Diesel Engine Woke up My Marriage,' and in doing so revealed to me the real meaning of the essay that I was doing my very best to ignore. '"A Diesel Engine Woke up My Marriage"!' What an uninspiring, utterly accurate, and therefore very annoying title. I sputtered to anybody who would listen. That's when I knew I had a book."

The van entered her life at a time during which she and her friends had adopted the habit of speaking in silly rhymes about their ennui. "Feeing dead. Dead in bed. Too much snore. There's got to be more." Her husband's passion for the van and his general "zest for life (or more to the point, my lack of zest)," she writes, reminded her of how exciting life used to be when they were risk-taking, fun-loving, twentysomething newlyweds. In those days, "we didn't think about what things cost. We thought only about the cost of not doing things."

Writing the book was a learning experience: "I discovered that I could get to the meaty stuff by backing up into it, which is heavily my new approach to life. *The Slippery Year* isn't a typical tell-all memoir, mostly because I don't believe in telling it all. It's more of a tell-some memoir, by which I mean I trafic in some seemingly benign subject matter like how slowly people shop at Trader Joe's and just how annoying that is, which then brings me around to a more meaningful realization, like we're only allotted a number of perfect minutes where everything is as it should be and the thing I'm most afraid of is that those minutes are running out," muses Gideon, who has also authored two young adult novels, *The Map That Breathed* and *Pucker*. "In writing this book I found out that pretty much everything, from scrambled eggs to overdue library books ... can be squeezed and a deeper truth extracted." 4 p.m., free. BooksInc.net

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story go to: [illegible]/gideon

LECTURES

4th of July and 1, 2, and 3 Women Documentary double feature. Wed., Nov. 18, 7 p.m., $5-$7. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

American Retirement Grab Shower [illegible] and [illegible] with Timothy [illegible], the president of Green Retirement Plans, Inc. For info, call 415-587-[illegible] or visit [illegible].com. Mon., Nov. 23, 6:30 p.m., free. Concord Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Oakland. 925-827-2000. [illegible].com.

Berkeley Sustainable by Oakland Talks on sustainability projects. Nov. 19, 4-8 p.m. $35. ($18) 510-549-2329 ext. 232, [illegible].org/[illegible]. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Documentarist: David Brower's Fight for Wild America Documentary about the famous wildlife conservationist. Wed., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., $5. Alumni Hall, 300 27th St., [illegible]. 510-451-5818. [illegible].net.

Public Policy: Can It Strengthen the Media's Watchdog Function? Charles S. Sydnor Professor of Public Policy & Duke University, and author of *All the News That's Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News*, will speak about public policy impact on the media. Wed., Nov. 18, 6 p.m., free. 105 North Gate Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

What's Next for Haiti? Haiti Action Committee lecture featuring [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] from Haiti. Sat., Nov. 21, 4 p.m., $7-$15. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Book Group Salon and Pinto Tasting Meet an author chat with eight writers. Sat., Nov. 21, 4 p.m. Books Inc. Berkeley. 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

David Barsamian Discussing *Democratic Decisions: the Imperial Presidency and Forming a More Perfect Union*. Sun., Nov. 22, 3 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Dr. [illegible] Book Tour Fri., Nov. 20, 7 p.m., free. Barnes & Noble, [illegible] Emeryville. Oakland. 510-222-9337.

Elizabeth Hamer Wed., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Jeffrey Haas Discussing *The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the FBI and the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther*. Fri., Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., free. Marcus Bookstore, 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. 510-652-2344.

Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows Discussing their new translation *A Year with Rilke: Daily Readings from the Best of Rainer Maria Rilke*. Wed., Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

John Darnielle and Susan Hall Delivering a talk and slide show about their new book *The American Meadow Garden*. Fri., Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Music of the World/La Palabra Musical With MamaCoAtl. Fourth and Second Sunday of every month. 3:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Books, 3288 Adeline St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Jones Discussing *A Tale of Two Trees*. Thu., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Poetry Flash: Antonio Troy Sorenson & Tiffany Higgins with Mitchell Rasolononbe on guitar Thu., Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

More Listings Online

Get info about dozens more literary events at EastBayExpress.com/events or on EastBayExpress.com

PUBLIC INTEREST

Action Healthcare Policy Forum How can safety net for Bay Area seniors be strengthened? U.S. Congressman George Miller, State Senator Loni Hancock, Joint Assembly member Mary Hayashi and Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley will be in attendance. Mon., Nov. 23, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $35-$50. 510-893-[illegible], http://[illegible].org. The Cathedral of Christ the Light Conference Center, 2121 Harrison St., Oakland.

PICKS

Lierre Keith

Outraged at how much land is devoted to growing massive quantities of grain, **Lierre Keith** calls agribusiness an assault on planet Earth. At **Pegasus** (1855 Solano Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Nov. 19, she discusses her memoir/manifesto *The Vegetarian Myth: Food, Justice, and Sustainability*. Vegan for twenty years but no longer, Keith believes food should be community-grown. 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusBookstore.com *— Anneli Rufus*

Patrizia Chen

Bored and suffering from empty-nest syndrome at fifty, Francesca leaves New York to write about Buenos Aires for a travel magazine. Enthralled, she stays — and, while learning to tango, gets involved with Argentina's most famous plastic surgeon in **Patrizia Chen**'s new novel *It Takes Two*. Meet the author at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com *— A.R.*

Friends of the Albany Library Book Sale

Stock up on affordable holiday gifts and rainy-day reading. Occupying a full two rooms at the **Albany Library** (1247 Marin Ave., Albany), the extra-large two-day fall **Friends of the Albany Library Book Sale** on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 21 and 22, features vintage, rare and collectible volumes along with the usual abundance of used fiction, nonfiction, magazines, music, DVDs, and more at bargain prices. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org *A.R.*

Mystery Writing Workshop

Berkeley novelist Cornelia Read and actor/writer/director Peter Singer are among many professionals presenting talks at a

Cornelia Read.

Mystery Writing Workshop at the **Claremont Resort and Spa** (41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley) on Nov. 21 and 22. Workshop topics include plotcraft, pacing, police procedures, and much more; meals are included. Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., $249. BerkeleyMysteryWorkshop.com *A.R.*

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BODY&SOUL

Just Eat It

But figure out when you're full, says Signe Darpinian

If Signe Darpinian were to eat only fast food for a year, she might develop cardiovascular or skin problems. "But I wouldn't have a weight problem," she insists, because unlike many fast food fans, she knows exactly when to stop. "We worry too much about *what* we eat when resolving body issues long term is all about *how* and *why* we eat," says the licensed marriage and family therapist whose **My Weigh** (240 Third St., Suite 2, Oakland) intuitive-eating center opened in Oakland this spring.

Recognizing and honoring the body's empty-and-full cues should be automatic. Sadly, it too often isn't.

Signe Darpinian

"Intuitive eating is the way babies eat," Darpinian says. "When they're full, they stop. My newborn is equipped with a self-regulating system. You can't overfeed her. We're born this way, but somehow in this culture we've all been pulled out of our bodies in general — so disconnected that lots of people go around thinking, 'I *need* somebody telling me what and when to eat.'"

Diets — whether they're low-fat, low-carb or low-calorie — are based entirely on the what and the when. "They don't work because they don't address those emotional drivers that pull you toward food in the first place," Darpinian says. "We need to learn to regulate emotions in ways other than with food."

In a typical scenario, someone who ate a hamburger at 4 p.m. arrives home from work at 6 p.m. "And where's the first place they go? The fridge," Darpinian says. "A couple hours after a good hearty hamburger, this isn't about being hungry. It's about making that transition from a busy day to the stillness of the evening," which spurs a mental rather than physical need: loneliness, say, or boredom. "Maybe you eat to quell the boredom, but the minute you stop eating, that boredom's going to pop right up again" — like the "mole" in a fairground "whack-a-mole" game, she explains — "because feeding an emotional hunger with physical food will never satisfy it. Instead, sit down and watch a movie. Call a friend. Or just celebrate the discomfort of being bored. You've got to hang out with the emotional driver to see what it wants and how it works."

When to eat? When hunger strikes. When to stop? When you're satisfied. "But satisfied is kind of tricky," Darpinian admits. "It's a subtle cue, whereas 'stuffed' is a loud cue." Eating only half a sandwich and leaving the other half while trying to discern whether you've had enough "requires a lot of self-exploration and a lot of commitment. That's why it's all the more important to eat, whenever possible, in a calm environment."

At My Weigh, whose animal prints and rococo overstuffed chairs evoke what she calls a "rock-n-roll therapy" ambience, Darpinian offers private sessions and workshops. Her "**Fall Into Your Natural Shape**" workshop on Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22, offers tools for making wise *how* and *why* choices during the *holidays*.

"The standard cure for obesity is still a diet," she marvels. "Yet the more we diet the fatter we get. Diets are about deprivation, so they're like holding your breath — and what happens when you hold your breath too long? When diets fail, people often turn to more compensatory behaviors such as anorexia or bulimia. So really, diets are a gateway drug." 10 a.m.-4 p.m., $300. MyWeighFamilyTherapy.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/myweigh

PERSONAL GROWTH

Celebrate Recovery A weekly meeting to discuss life-changing matters. Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. Creekside Community Church, 851 Manor Blvd., San Leandro, 510-430-0687. CelebrateCommunity.org.

Chemical Dependence Workshops A weekly workshop for users, parents of users, partners of users, and children of users. Ongoing, adults weekly, Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, free. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center, Health Education Center, 400 Hawthorne Ave., Oakland, 510-655-4000.

Food for Thought Readings by Berkeley psychic [illegible]. Thursdays, 6-7 p.m., $15. Gravity [illegible] Gallery, 1950 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-4484.

Lunchtime Dreaming David Jenkins, Ph.D. facilitates this weekly discussion group, for which no experience is necessary. Wednesdays, [illegible] p.m., $10. Thinking Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St. at Bonita St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. www.[illegible]

Celebrate Community Recovery Center Friday Night Meditation Meditation history, posture and breath techniques, chakra explanation, and different styles of meditation. Fridays, 6-8 p.m. free to Mandana CRC members, $3 for nonmembers. Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3000 Howe St., Oakland, 510-595-9800.

Mandana Community Recovery Center Tuesday Education Presentation A different holistic or spiritual topic that can help with students' recovery is addressed each week. Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m., free for Mandana CRC members, $3 for nonmembers. Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3000 Howe St., Oakland, 510-595-9800.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Adventures @ Jewish Learning Multi-interest day lecture series. Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.-noon. $7, $100 for a 25-lecture [illegible]. Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave., San Leandro, 510-357-8505. TempleBethSholom.org.

Dances of Universal Peace Sufi, Christian, Sikh, and other traditions. For info, visit PeaceWorksDances/NA.org. Third Friday of every month, 7:30 p.m., $5. Durant House, 2930 Durant Ave., Berkeley.

LGBT Meditation Group Vipassana meditation practice. E-mail [illegible] for info. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., free. East Bay Meditation Center, 2147 Broadway Ave., Oakland, 510-268-0696. EastBayMeditation.org.

Meditation, Women Gift and Beginner's Night Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., free. Empty Gate Zen Center, 2200 Parker St., Berkeley, 510-845-8565.

Personal Theology Celebrate Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through May 31. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

Qi Gong Learn Qi Gong from the [illegible] from the Shaolin Buddhist Temple and Education Adventures. Sundays-Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $10 (with optional class packages). Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland, 510-637-0455. OACC.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

4-Week Women Teacher Training With Larry Morris 4-month-long yoga teacher training, teaching students to take control of their minds, hearts and bodies. Training includes sound healing and psychology. Sun., Nov. 22, $180 for 4-week session. 7th Heaven Yoga, 2170 7th St., Berkeley, 510-665-4302. www.7thheavenyoga.com.

Beginners Yoga Workshop A beginners workshop for those brand new to yoga, or those who wish to deepen their knowledge of poses. Also includes one week of unlimited classes. Tue., Nov. 24, 2-4:45 p.m., $35. info@squareoneyoga.com. Square One Yoga Collective, 4339 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. squareoneyoga.com.

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on playing, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m., $10-$25. InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-465-2797. InterPlay.org.

Lunchtime Kundalini Yoga Wednesdays, noon-1, $5-$10 donation. William Shack Conference Room, Sproul Hall (UC Berkeley), Berkeley.

Tai Chi, Meditation, and Qigong With Jeffrey Kessler. Thursdays, 5 p.m., $50-$70 per month. Chestnut Hall, 2225 Palace St., Berkeley, 510-704-0657. Chestnut.org.

PICKS

Road to the Stupa Benefit Concert

Singer/composer/shaman Silvia Nakkach, a renowned expert on the healing power of music, headlines the **Road to the Stupa Benefit Concert** at the **Unity Church of Berkeley** (2425 LeConte Ave., Berkeley) on Friday, Nov. 20. At this benefit for the Stupa Peace Park Project, she'll be accompanied by San Francisco Opera diva Francine Lancaster, pianist Philip Porter and others. 7 p.m., $20-$30. Vajrayana.org — *Anneli Rufus*

Alternative Health Q & A

Can qigong alleviate flu symptoms? Can phobias be treated with Reiki? At the **Berkeley Public Library's Central Branch** (2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley) on Saturday, Nov. 21, "**Got Well? Alternative Practitioners Answer Your Questions About Healing**" is a free Q&A with Don Beckett, author of *Reiki: the True Story*, and Kalon Ching and Elise Ching, authors of *Chi and Creativity: Vital Energy and Your Inner Artist*. 2 p.m., free. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org — *A.R.*

Making Healthy Babies, Raising Healthy Babies

Doctors, health advocates, [illegible] and [illegible] are among many presenters at **Making Healthy Babies, Raising Healthy Babies**, an all-day symposium at the **UC Berkeley Art Museum Theater** (2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, Nov. 21. Offering strategies for protecting infants and pregnant women from environmental toxins and other risks, the event includes panels, films, and lectures. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $75.

Silvia Nakkach.

Tots' Dance Class

Wanna dance? Find out at a **free movement-and-music class** for kids age three to five at the **Fremont Library** (2450 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont) on Tuesday, Nov. 24. It's taught by instructors from Fremont-based Rachel's Ballet, which is a member of the Royal Academy of Dance and focuses on artistry as well as self-expression, plus proper muscle tone, posture, discipline, and general health. 2:15 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org — *A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

SHIFTING ATTITUDES AND FREQUENCIES

For the week of November 18-24, 2009

By Rallee Finn

Saturn/Pluto Square, Part Two

The Wheel of Life continues to move in a new direction this week, and as it alters the course of collective destiny, the smaller wheels of individual fate also have opportunities to adjust personal destinies. Don't be fooled by appearances: even if surface concerns remain the same – money, work, health, love – attitudes about those issues are shifting. We are in a potent transition, packed with creative power that can be put to good use envisioning and actualizing next steps. Be clear and precise about where you are and what you want to do next. Also be aware, this new frequency has a decidedly extraterrestrial feel, so don't be surprised if you or someone you love is dreaming about being abducted or channeling new information from Saturn or Sirius. Galactic signatures are always a part of consciousness shifts here on Earth, which means it's once again time to dust off those ET beacons, attune the antennae and prepare to receive the next set of instructions.

A Saturn/Pluto square is at the center of the current situation; this configuration is the celestial equivalent of terrestrial tectonic activity. Saturn represents foundations; Pluto the inevitability of change; and squares signify friction. This square, which was exact on November 15, is actually part of a Saturn/Pluto cycle that began with a conjunction in September 1982. I like to think of this cycle as the astro-signification of Reaganomics and what those economic and political policies put in motion. All Saturn/Pluto contacts are about contraction, and certainly the Eighties and Nineties were a period of economic meltdown: high unemployment and even higher interest rates (despite the big hair). For nearly two decades the economy suffered, with only a brief "prosperity" blip for some in the late Nineties. The waxing square within this cycle occurred three times between March 1993 and January 1994, and by the fall of 1994, "Contract with America" became the mantra of the Republican agenda. The contractive force of Saturn/Pluto reached its peak from August 2001 to May 2002, with a series of three oppositions. We need no reminder of what that opposition put in motion. We are still working our way through the consequences of those years. Now we are in the last or waning square of that cycle that began in 1982, confronting indeed the same issues: a bad economy, usury interest rates, and even higher unemployment.

Yet while it may appear as if nothing has changed, it feels as if everything has changed — a paradox that makes me wonder what the transformative lessons of this Saturn/Pluto cycle might be. How can I understand its constructive force in a collective context? How can I identify it in my personal life, and grow from it? Big questions for big times. What I know for sure is that contraction is always followed by expansion, and there have been huge leaps in collective and personal consciousness over this very same cycle — just look at attitudes toward the environment. So as this current phase of Saturn/Pluto unfolds, ask yourself what you have learned and are continuing to learn through the process.

One more thought: *ET* was also released in 1982. And while I'm not suggesting alien invasion is the next phase in the Saturn/Pluto cycle, I can't help but remember *ET*'s lesson to Elliot: each of us holds the power to span the entire universe in our hearts. And love is the most powerful agent of change.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that too.

ARIES Staying grounded in the midst of so much uncertainty won't be easy. Make your mantra "I can feel my feet" and then just take life one day at a time.

TAURUS Career demands could be overwhelming, but if you prioritize your objectives, you'll find it easier to manage your time and energy.

GEMINI Be direct, precise, and clear about what you want to say. And even if others are not as diligent as you would like, don't let that affect your determination.

CANCER Rather than get lost in concerns about the future, stay centered in present time. Reality may be a challenge, but that doesn't mean it's impossible to change.

LEO You're a natural leader with a knack for inspiring others. Respect that gift and remember: those who inspire the most in others, lead by example.

VIRGO Rather than waste a moment of time fretting about what will be, focus on what is and how to improve your situation. If you're patient, you'll eventually arrive at your desired destination.

LIBRA Don't be nervous if your mood swings in several directions before you find your balance. Just accepting these fluctuations as part of your process will help to heal your heart.

SCORPIO You're called to internal process, but you're really enjoying external activities. This may sound like a riddle, but these are not mutually exclusive realms of human life.

SAGITTARIUS Do what you do best — and talk it out. That's right. Apply your loquacious skill to whatever seems to rankle, and you'll find the peace you are looking for.

CAPRICORN Try not to let the brain worms steal your precious mental energy. Instead of chewing compulsively on the same information, give it a rest. The answer will eventually present itself.

AQUARIUS Rather than frame the situation as oppositional, consider how you can create a synthesis that includes all points of view without losing yours.

PISCES Step into the spotlight, share your ideas, and instead of worrying about criticism welcome it. Staying open to feedback, even if it is unskilled, will only help you to improve.

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Rallee Finn specializes in transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-0264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com or e-mail Rallee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Rallee Finn

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FOOD & DRINK

OIL BE BACK

Who says you can't deep-fry Hostess cupcakes?

By Anneli Rufus

If dreams were transformed into food, they'd be deep-fried. Waking-world food can't look or feel or taste like this: not anymore, not here. We blink, we blush, pretending not to see the morsel batter-swathed and bathed in boiling oil that floods its pores and gushes at the slightest touch, disgorged like a dream-cache of liquid gold. We tell ourselves it has nothing to do with us, this morsel whose weight its immersion multiplied, transmogrified into a sanctified prize. Oil pulses out, soaking paper and sleeking skin in that runaway space- and time-defying dream-cadence. *I'll fill you*, vows the oil, and your soul says "No" but your mouth says "Yes, yes, with you I could withstand blizzards yes."

The restaurant that Steve Yankus opened this spring really is called the Deep Fried Twinkie & Pastrami Shop. It has a cult following and it occupies two corners of the convenience store at a Valero station that sells Fremont's cheapest gas. Its menu includes deep-fried hot dogs and sandwiches, deep-fried Hostess treats, and deep-fried cookies, although some customers bring over their convenience-store purchases for a quick fat bath: frozen pizza, for instance, and packaged pound cake. Not so long ago Yankus battered and fried a Slim Jim.

The Deep-Fried Twinkie & Pastrami Shop
4001 Mowry Ave., Fremont
510-794-7066
Hours: Mon-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Cash only

Sample Menu

Deep-Fried Twinkie	$2
Deep-Fried Cupcake	$2.50
Pastrami Sandwich	$5.99
Gravy Fries	$4.50

At a certain point in life you come to think you've tasted everything. You wish it wasn't so, but with all that kimchi and mochi and blood sausage stored in your memory banks, even stuff you *haven't* tried before evokes something you have. But then you eat a deep-fried *PB&J*.

Evoking jelly doughnuts, suggesting the most emollient Viennese pastry, sprinkled with powdered sugar to effect a Monte Cristo, it soars clear of all three, emerging only as itself, a tender pouch releasing hot, sweet, salty, creamy swirls. In a society where little is forbidden anymore, what remains to shame and thrill us besides deep-fried food? And not just *food* but name-brand, corporate, 1960s-lunchbox food?

Yankus and his wife, Cathy, first came to love deep-fried cuisine in Las Vegas, where such food is a veritable genre. They sold fried creations at Las Vegas' annual San Gennaro Feast. But their move westward yielded an unnerving jolt.

"We love to eat. But in the Bay Area it's hard to find good food," Yankus laments, spreading his arms wide at one of the squeaky-clean tables near the gas station's window. "I mean our kind of food." He grins. "Very health-conscious is the Bay Area."

Where, he wondered, were the garlic fries? "And to get a decent calzone I had to drive from San Jose to Top Dog — fifty miles. As for a deep-fried ham-and-cheese, don't even try." Determined to fill that niche, he searched Fremont for vacancies. Now the soy oil bubbles alongside a pinned-up fan letter from a local high-school girl who gushes: *Your food changed my life.*

This is a universe where Hostess cupcakes are dipped *not entirely* into batter, then fried such that their distinctive chocolate-with-white-squiggle frosting stays untouched. Coated Chips Ahoy cookies go chewy-soft, a bit mushy, their chips diffused. Deep-fried, a Twinkie loses the angel-cake lightness that was once its signal quality and — cream filling melted, gone — becomes something darker. If a substantial Twinkie is not subversive, then what is?

Bananas are the most natural item that goes into the fryer here. Their sweetness caramelizes to a gooey ecstasy, "but the batter makes it resemble an acceptable nutritional foodstuff," Tuffs observed later. "It's just fruit and breading, see?"

Your mind snarls *junk food* but is that just the Odwalla talking? The oil comes from soybeans, after all. The Yankus family pickles their own peppers and makes from scratch their own batter, their own chili, and the old-fashioned gravy that tops Pez-dispenser-sized fries served piping hot by such bodacious basketfuls — "Warning! Large order!" reads the menu — that I wished they weren't made from frozen pre-sliced spuds. (Yankus originally used fresh potatoes but switched after customers complained that the fries weren't crisp enough.) The breading recipe was chosen after extensive trial and error in search of what Cathy Yankus calls a "perfectly neutral batter, not too pancakey and not too waffley, neither sweet nor savory," thus suitable for turkey, Oreos, and peanut butter. Their labor paid off in a lightish batter whose texture and flavor do not overwhelm whatever it enrobes.

The new batter contains no trans fats, Yankus says. Not that it stays that way for long, as the deep-fryer seals shut all its golden parcels, forcing coating to coated in a few sizzling seconds. Because oil transfers heat much more rapidly than air or water do, it cooks food faster. A 345-to-375-degree oil bath rapidly heats any water contained by food immersed in it, effectively steaming this food from within while creating a rush of water vapor that meets and resists the incoming oil, ideally preventing its full penetration. As the vapor escapes, a crust forms. Via a process known as the Maillard reaction, the intense heat causes carbon molecules in the sugars to combine with amino acids in the proteins, creating a distinctively "toasty" flavor, fairground fragrance, and golden hue.

Well, yeah, and you're like *Ohmygod, I KNOW why this was fuel for whole boat crews and fisherfolk.* It goes down slick, then sticks, warming you with a break-the-waves bravado for which modern life provides no foil. For those who spend their days practically motionless, deep-fried food is a culinary artifact.

Not that this troubles the teenagers hanging up here at lunchtime.

Vegetarians are out of luck here, although not everything is deep-fried (but the bacon-wrapped hot dog is). The double-dipped pastrami sandwich, a signature dish, bursts with succulent, black-peppery, sliced-paper-thin pinkness piled onto a soft so-so roll so mountainously as to shame your standard oh-but-they-serve-immaculate-tea downtown café. Yankus chooses each brined navel-cut brisket — he calls it "the bacon of beef" — with care at one of several local packing houses, grilling the meat and dousing it twice in au jus. A yearning for exactly this treat, which he grew up eating, was another reason he opened this restaurant.

"If there was a good pastrami sandwich anywhere else in the Bay Area," he shrugs, "I wouldn't be here now."

But it is the fried food that keeps calling your name. Miles away, you sit up with a start and think: Did I eat that? Your mind says no but your mouth says yes with a snarky saucy defiance, yes yes and I liked it yes. ■

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Deep-fried Oreos and Twinkies.

Dre Puffey

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EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

[illegible] 10390 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-8350 (Mexican) $

El Salvador 3143 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-[illegible]-0807 (Bakery/Peruvian/South American) $$

[illegible] Hot Pot City 3288 Pierce St. (in the Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-524-8081 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 3000 San Pablo Ave. Suite E, Hercules, 510-724-2330 (Barbecue/Fish) $

Kong Thap 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-8306 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

[illegible] 2950 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-8550 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

Tacos Los Primos Parking lot of 650 23rd St., Richmond (Mexican) $

El Tapatio 910 23rd St., Richmond, 510-235-0999 (Mexican) $

[illegible] Seafood Restaurant 11000 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Al's Big Burger 417 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-8522 (Diner) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] 1948 Solano Ave., Berkeley, (510) 528-8878 (Vietnamese) $$

Cafe Ina 1380 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-1185 (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] 1511A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-0008 (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-8814 (English/Irish) $$

Kirin 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1677 (Chinese) $$

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Nizza La Bella 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2552 (French/Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1360 Oak View Ave., Albany, 510-525-1350 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Sam's Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $

Vanessa's Bistro 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8300 (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004 (Mixed) $$$

[illegible] 1816 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1883 (Chinese/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 1340 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-528-2200 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Grégoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] Taqueria 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3354 (Deli/Kosher/Halal/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Top Dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

[illegible] 2113 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-1898 (Lunch/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 2122 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2122 (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Farmers' Market (Center St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley, 510-830-9993 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790 (American/English/Irish) $$

Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Bobby G's Pizzeria 2072 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-8866 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $-$$

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-5553 (Tibetan) $-$$

Chaat Cafe 1902 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1431 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Downtown Bar and Restaurant 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-3810 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Jayakarta 2026 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9684 (Southeast Asian) $-$$

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277 (Brewery/Pizza) $$

Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072 (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Smokehouse 2080 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6998 (Barbecue) $-$$

[illegible] 2142 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0325 (Central American) $-$$

[illegible] 2098 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0501 (Japanese/Sushi) $

Razan's Organic Kitchen 2119 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-0449 (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Thai Delight Cuisine 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0611 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Top Dog 2160 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-0176 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 2320 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5050 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

[illegible] 1581 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Italian/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

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BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

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Brennan's Restaurant 700 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0960 (American) $

Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 514 Heinz Ave. (at Seventh St.), Berkeley, 510-843-0100 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-658-2007 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8261 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 1650 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1665 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 804 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1290 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] 945 Carleton St., Berkeley, 510-845-6984 (Pizza) $-$$

Kabana 1106 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3355 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $

Lois the Pie Queen 851 60th St., Emeryville, 510-658-5616 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] 1347 40th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0381 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

O Chame 1830 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-841-8783 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Picante 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-3121 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Sea Breeze Market and Deli 598 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-8802 (Deli/Seafood) $

Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4412 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Tuesday Berkeley Farmers Market (Derby St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley, 510-848-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe Muse 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-4366 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe Valparaiso 3125 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3600 (South American) $$

[illegible] 2768 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-548-0425 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd. (Claremont Resort and Spa), Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Shen Hua 2914 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1777 (Chinese) $-$$

Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Vault Cafe 3150 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-665-1600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

Wat Mongkolratanaram 1911 Russell St., Berkeley, 510-849-3419 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

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[illegible] 6000 Claremont Ave., Oakland. 510-595-0998 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-0889 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $$

Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland. 510-428-1923 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

top dog 5190 Broadway (inside Longs Drugs), Oakland. 510-601-1181 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-6607 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland. 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 6100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-653-3456 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland. 415-482-6100 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4307 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-9227 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-450-0678 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-7999 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casserole House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-601-6661 (Korean) $

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-6007 (Korean) $$

Oakland B.B.Q. [illegible] 4811 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5336 (Korean) $-$$

Pyeong Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-658-9040 (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

S&S Seafood 4923 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-654-5504 (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland. 415-817-4100 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-7180 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-1088 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-547-5035 (Regional Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 3314 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-653-3312 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$

Lo Coco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-652-8222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

[illegible] 3411 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-663-2500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] Sushi 3260 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-8854 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

OAKLAND DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

B Restaurant 499 9th St., Oakland. 510-251-8770 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Battambang Restaurant 850 Broadway, Oakland. 510-839-8815 (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland. 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/Regional Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Caffe Verbena 1111 Broadway Lobby Level of APL Building, Oakland. 510-465-9300 (Regional Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Bar-B-Que 1919 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-834-9588 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Le Cheval 1007 Clay St., Oakland. 510-763-8495 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$

Cock-A-Doodle Cafe 719 Washington St., Oakland. 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/[illegible]/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Golden Lotus 1301 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-893-0383 (Chinese/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $

Huynh 281 15th St., Oakland. 510-832-5236 (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] Bistro 360 Broadway, Oakland. 510-251-8850 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 388 8th St., Oakland. 510-836-1515 (Chinese) $

Tay Ho 344 12th St., Oakland. 510-836-8388 (Seafood/Asian/Vietnamese) $

top dog 499 14th St., Suite 11, Oakland. 510-832-4960 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-9200 (American) $-$$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

Yung Kee Restaurant 888 Webster St., Oakland. 510-839-2010 (Chinese) $

ALAMEDA

[illegible] 1514 Webster St., Alameda. 510-523-2727 (Korean) $$$

Angel Fish 832 Island Dr., Suite C-2, Alameda. 510-748-0480 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Dragon Rouge 2319 Central Ave., Alameda. 510-521-1000 (Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 1505 Park St., Alameda. 510-521-8130 (Cuban) $$

The [illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda. 510-769-5081 (Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] Table 3215 A Encinal Ave., Alameda. 510-814-6178 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] 2412 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-521-3380 (Deli) $

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-1300 (German/Austrian) $$

OAKLAND-EAST

[illegible] 1500 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-261-8800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] Restaurant 702 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-444-2000 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Los Cocos 1449 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-536-3879 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. (510) 533-0900 (Barbecue) $$

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland. 510-465-7188 (American/Mexican) $$

Pho Hoa Lao 720 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-832-8888 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Taqueria Sinaloa 2138 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-535-1206 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Zamorano 4345 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-261-3821 (Mexican) $

La Torta Loca 3419 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-532-7815 (Mexican) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

A Street Cafe 1213 A St., Hayward. 510-581-2558 (French) $$$

[illegible] 20102 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-276-7350 (Italian) $-$$

Buffalo Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward. 510-886-9823 (American/Brewpub) $

[illegible] 209 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro. 510-895-6828 (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward. (510) 581-3222 (Barbecue) $$

The Hayward Ranch 22800 Mission Blvd., Hayward. 510-538-5522 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$

Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 22818 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley. 510-889-9888 (Chinese) $

[illegible] 29500 E. [illegible] Blvd., Hayward. 510-670-9727 (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

Val's Burgers 2115 Kelly St., Hayward. 510-886-8257 (American/Diner) $

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

[illegible] Cafe 3854 Mowry Ave., Fremont. 510-796-3100 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] 1943 Decoto Rd., Union City. 510-675-9485 (Chinese) $

[illegible] 33330 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City. 510-471-0307 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

De Afghanan Kabob House 37405 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. 510-745-9599 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $-$$

Kinder's Custom Meats 43781 Boscell Rd., Fremont. 510-440-1517 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Mirchi Cafe & Masala Plaza 40900 Fremont Blvd., #E Fremont. 510-413-9500 (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont. 510-795-8200 (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$

PLEASANT HILL, CONCORD & EAST

Chopan House 2090 Monument Blvd., Concord. 925-680-5438 (Afghan/Persian) $

[illegible] 1825 Salvio St., Ste. C, Concord. 925-825-3077 (Eastern European/Ger-

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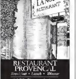

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E.J. Phair Brewing Company and Alehouse 2151 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord, 925-691-4253 (American/Brewpub) $-$$

El [illegible] 2212 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-671-0832 (Mexican) $$

Gyro's Gyros and Hot Dogs 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-0456 (Greek/Turkish) $

Hollywood Pizza Pasta & Beer 1580 Bonifacio St., Concord, 925-521-0000 (Italian/Pizza) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 Morello Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2339 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 1020 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-685-6[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 5411 Lone Tree Way #110, Brentwood, 925-308-795[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

WALNUT CREEK

Babushka Russian Deli & Restaurant 1475 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-210-0779 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-933-2464 (American/Steak House) $$$$

Huynh 1512 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-952-9008 (Vietnamese) $$

Kinder's Custom Meats 4891 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-952-9383 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-1234 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1218 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-938-2426 (Deli/Italian) $

[illegible] [illegible] N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible] (Chinese) $$

The Original Hickory Pit 1495 S. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-3450 (Southern/Comfort/Diner) $$

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Chop Bar

247 4th St., Oakland, 510-834-2467. This jazzy, planked-wood Old Oakland cafe is one of the Bay Area's coolest hangouts. The rustic Country American fare with a few Mediterranean accents isn't always up to the setting, but the luscious pork shank with figs and apricots, the potato gratin with Fiscalini cheddar and a pot de crème touched with cinnamon are delectable. Five wines are served tapped from the barrel; hipster-friendly live music Tuesday nights. $$

Arizmendi

3265 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-268-8849; 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0550. A past winner of the "best bakery in the East Bay" category of the *Express* Best of the East Bay awards, Arizmendi — named for Basque priest/labor organizer Father José Arizmendiarrieta — is a worker-owned cooperative line launched in 1997 by workers from Berkeley's famous Cheeseboard Collective. Although a full array of sweet and savory baked goods is on offer here — from baguettes to macaroons — thin-crusted artisanal pizza is the main attraction. Only one topping-combo is available every day, and that combo changes every day and is always meatless, featuring such components as roasted red onions, shiitake mushrooms, cheddar cheese, and arugula. If you're not the take-what-comes/go-with-the-flow type, check out the whole month's pizza menu online. $

Cheeseboard Pizza Collective

1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055. A line snakes out the door and down the sidewalk. Those in it realize that only one item is sold here, always only one, although it alters slightly every day. Since not all the tables here are almost always occupied, customers carry their pizza out onto the road and eat it on the traffic median. Serving pizza by the pie, half-pie, and slice, this is one of the East Bay's favorite pizza places. Tourists come from all over the world as well, drawn by tales of a worker-owned, bohemian bakery in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto where mostly organic vegetables, herbs, and cheeses from around the world compose a different meatless artisanal pizza every day. The one-choice policy is welcome if you like surprises, sucks if you [illegible] on a day when you like its components, and every bite sparkles with flavor. $

Asena

2508 Santa Clara Ave. (at Everett St.), Alameda, 510-521-4100. This venerable Alameda destination is as cozy and friendly as it was when it opened in 1996, and the house fusion-Mediterranean cuisine is still well worth investigating. Crunchy fried artichoke hearts with peppery aioli, filo pastries stuffed with feta and fresh dill, grilled chicken with apples, brie, and currants, and tender little gnocchi with porcini mushrooms are among the menu's standouts (the lamb-stuffed eggplant can be tough and tasteless, though). Get the dark, decadent pot de crème or the fluffy bittersweet blood orange cheesecake for dessert. Impressive wine and cocktail list. $$$

The Sister's House

2865 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-538-0311. There are no sisters at this friendly Korean joint, just a hard-working mother-and-daughter team whose specialties include hearty soups, barbecued meats, and a generous array of house-made banchan. Start with a toasty seafood pancake or a steamer full of super-sized dumplings and an addictive soy-sesame dipping sauce. Straightforward renditions of *bi bim bap* and *gal bi*, marinated short ribs, don't disappoint, but it pays to head off the beaten path with a bowl of rolling, fiery red goat stew (*yeom so tang*) or [illegible] filled with [illegible] and the plucky flavor of shepherd's purse greens. $$

Bocanova

55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233. Pan-Latin food and drink with upscale-organic California ingredients star at this handsome, industrial-chic Jack London Square venue. The all-à la carte menu features plates large and small ideal for sharing: rich, lusty sweet potato-chipotle gratin; tender scallops drizzled with a peppery coulis; slender slices of silky raw albacore; a creamy-dreamy bread pudding jammed with Mexican chocolate ice cream. Extensive pan-American wine list; inventive house cocktails include a spicy, potent pisco punch. $$$

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Chow 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

El Charro Mexican Cafe 3563 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 3606 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Wine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 3565 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-8700 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Saklan St., Moraga, 925-376-5127 (Australian) $-$$

Ristorante Amoroso 360 Park St. (in the Rheem Valley shopping plaza), Moraga, 925-377-7000 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

TRI-VALLEY

Blue Agave Club 625 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-417-1224 (Mexican) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Main St., [illegible], 925-880-[illegible] (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Bridges Restaurant and Bar 44 Church St., Danville, 925-820-7200 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Los Caporales 2830 First St., Livermore, 925-449-4454 (Mexican) $

Claudie and Dominique's Bistro 210 Rose Ave., Pleasanton, 925-462-0[illegible] (French) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] Cafe 620 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-4222 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $-$$

Kinder's Custom Meats 4805 Hopyard Rd., Suite F2, Pleasanton, 925-461-2333 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 685 Town & Country Dr., Suite G, [illegible], 925-553-6378 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] and Vineyard [illegible], Livermore, 925-443-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon, 925-244-1222 (Pizza) $-$$ ■

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FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

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Fruit Tasting Jimmy Zhang shows how to make art with fruit on selected Saturdays (call for details). Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $5. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Farmers. 510-637-0455, OACC.cc.

Holiday Wine Tasting Come taste the new wines in the Farmers gift barns, and Belgian chocolate truffles filled with Farmers Port. Nov. 21-22, 12-5 p.m. $6. Farmers Winery, 33 Vallecitos Rd. (near Highway 84), Livermore. 925-862-2280. FarmersWinery.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family Martinez. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 26, free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Alameda.

Bayfair Center Farmers Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000, ShopBayfair.com.

Farmers Farmers' Market With Farmers selling locally grown Martinez fruits, vegetables, and more. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-671-3464.

Farmers Certified Farmers Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, bedding plants, fresh flowers and specialty food items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Farmers St., at Prospect St., Oakland.

Good Fresh Market Community Farmers Stand Farm Fresh Choice runs Farmers stands in culturally diverse Berkeley neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-848-1704. EcologyCenter.org. Farmers Miner Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St. (at Oregon St.), Berkeley. 510-981-5150, CI.Berkeley.ca.us/recreation/farmersmarket.

Irvington Farmers Market With Market selling California-grown fruits and vegetables in season. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Bay St., at Fremont Blvd., Farmers.

Kaiser Permanente Farmers Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh California-grown fruits and vegetables. Located in the courtyard fronting the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Farmers.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Medical Market With Market selling locally grown California Market at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Farmers, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market With locally-grown seasonal fruits and vegetables. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Permanente Martinez Medical Offices, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Farmers Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 3801 Howe St., Farmers.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers Market With fresh fruits, nuts, greens, vegetables and flowers. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market With vendors selling seasonal produce of the Valencia plans. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market With a nursery, fresh Market, an organic chocolatier, bee-prepared fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, mushrooms, bread, Market, fresh meats, and seasonal Market. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection, a nonprofit that strives to promote nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods and the connections between people and our planet. The Farmers includes certified organic produce from J&P Organic Farm based out of Salinas, CA and a youth-led prepared food booth called the Purple Lawn Café. For more info or to find out how to become Farmers please contact Teri at teri@oaklandfoodconnection.org, or call 510-457-1000. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Walnut Farmers' Market, 4123 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Alameda Farmers' Market Market specialty foods, all-organic Market and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., free admission. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. (at Rose St.), Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Certified market featuring vendors with fruits, local Farmers, flowers and crafts for sale. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Nov. 10, free. Court St., Martinez, Farmers Main & Farmers Sts., Martinez.

Pleasanton Farmers' Market With Martinez fruit and vegetables, plus Saturday Animal Rescue hosting cat and dog adoptions. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., free. Pleasanton Farmers Market, West Angela St. (at First St.), Pleasanton.

San Leandro Farmers' Market With seasonal produce, recipes, and activities organized by Friends of the Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21, free. Hesperian Blvd. (at Paseo Grande), San Lorenzo.

Saturday Morning Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (between Allston and Center St.), Berkeley. 510-843-6700.

Seasonal Farmers' Market California Market farmers offer seasonal premium-dated fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, Farmers Market and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Tuesday.

PICK

Harvest Gala

A UC Berkeley student organization with a vision, the Berkeley Student Food Collective aims to create a cooperative market/café/deli selling fresh, local, sustainable, and ethically produced goodies. Its first annual **Harvest Gala at the David Brower Center** (2150 Allston Way, Berkeley) on **Friday**, Nov. 20, is a fund-raiser featuring live music and a formal all-organic dinner prepared and served by students. 6 p.m., $30-$150. BerkeleyStudentFoodCollective.org. *— Anneli Rufus*

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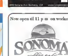
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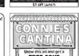
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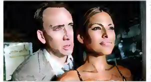
MOVIES

ROLLER DERBY

Cop goes wild (*Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*) and defense attorney takes on the establishment (*William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe*)

By Kelly Vance



Nicholas Cage gives his best performance in years as a drug-crazed detective in *Bad Lieutenant*.

You don't have to know anything about Abel Ferrara's *Bad Lieutenant* to appreciate Werner Herzog's *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*. In fact, you should probably leave Ferrara's 1992 Harvey Keitel-on-a-rampage policier alone for the time being. Supposedly there's bad blood between filmmaker Ferrara and the makers of the "sequel," and it confuses the issue.

Even though producer Edward R. Pressman worked on both titles — he's one of fifteen prods on *Port of Call* — there's little commonality between the two films other than the drug-crazed police detective lead character on a downward spiral. With the story of Lieutenant Terence McDonagh (Nicolas Cage) prowling the ruins of post-Katrina New Orleans, the filmmakers have definitely traded up a few notches. It's one of Cage's best performances in years and another unexpected chapter in Herzog's fascinating career.

We have to go all the way back to Junior Brown, the psychopathic strip club owner in Barbet Schroeder's *Kiss of Death* (1994), to find a meatier heavy in Cage's filmography. He's appeared in a long list of stinkers since then, but McDonagh is a godsend for the 45-year-old actor. The bent cop plays to Cage's strengths, which would be anybody else's weaknesses: hangdog expression, droopy eyes, trace of a lisp, inability to suppress boredom, impatience bordering on violence, etc.

Cranky McDonagh is investigating the execution murders of a family of Senegalese drug dealers. He's a walking tropical depression. He uses crack, Oxycontin, and heroin to ease his chronic back pain, and casually rips off dope dealers and late-night clubbers to support his jones. His girlfriend Frankie (Eva Mendes) is a high-rise prostitute with customer-relations problems. McDonagh is also addicted to betting on college football, where he consistently picks losers. He shakes down a football player and forces him to shave points. He teams up with a rabbit and a teenage crime witness. He mugs an eighty-year-old woman in a nursing home. He's on a roll.

Not since *Leaving Las Vegas* has Cage looked so dissipated. McDonagh is clearly running on fumes in the second half — the shakes, pale complexion, hunched over with one shoulder out of joint, comically incapacitated. He looks like he can barely stand up, but has the strength to pistol whip you right quick. A beautifully repellant portrait of a man out of control.

We keep waiting for Herzog to tip his hand, but there's very little in *Bad Lieutenant* to suggest that the maker of *Aguirre: The Wrath of God* or *Nosferatu* is behind the camera. In a way, it's a European art film fanatic's dream — imagine Werner Herzog as a Hollywood genre director. He practices subtraction. Turns out his noirish vision of New Orleans (screenplay by TV vet William M. Finkelstein) is as stripped-down and terse as any Fifties noir ... by Phil Karlson or Don Siegel. No shots of Lower Ninth Ward wreckage, no jazz funerals whatsoever, a dearth of Bourbon Street, and Mark Isham's music score soft-pedals the funk. Herzog spreads the local color evenly across McDonagh's urban landscape — it's one or two shades of dull beat-out gray, enlivened at intervals by strategically placed critters: a water moccasin slithering into a flooded jailhouse, a gator's POV shot, a pair of gratuitous iguanas, a dog.

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans

Directed by Werner Herzog. With Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes, and Val Kilmer. Opens Friday.

William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe

Directed by Emily Kunstler & Sarah Kunstler.

The supporting cast does Cage justice. Mendes is absolutely believable as a mild-mannered hooker. Val Kilmer's part as McDonagh's detective partner might have been beefed up a bit. Xzibit excels as Big Fate the crime boss. Fairuza Balk portrays an ideal version of a kinky traffic cop. That's Brad Dourif as the bookie and Michael Shannon as Mundt, the obliging flunky in the police property room, where they keep the impounded narcotics. Back at McDonagh's boyhood home outside of town, his father Pat (Tom Bower) and dad's girlfriend Genevieve (the wonderful Jennifer Coolidge) keep the beer flowing. Various cops, Louisiana Italian 'hoods, [illegible] nurses, johns, cons, and parole violators filter through the scenery causing distress to our man McDonagh.

Herzog, of course, is one of the finest documentarians in the business, and even though his gritty war adventure *Rescue Dawn* pointed to new directions in the narrative form, it's hard to think of *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans* as anything but a curiosity. Turn Herzog loose in the bizarrely shrunken Crescent City with the rampaging Cage and see what happens. Cage bubbles over with menace while Herzog merely simmers, peering into the eyes of iguanas for inspiration. For Cage it's a major return to form. For Herzog, a vacation in the Land of Dreams.

William Kunstler, the epitome of the radical leftist lawyer, first made a national name for himself when he defended the Chicago 8 (later to become the Chicago 7 after Black Panther Bobby Seale was removed from the trial) on charges of inciting to riot during the 1968 Democratic convention. But he had a life — separate lives, as it happens, before Chicago and after it.

His daughters Emily and Sarah Kunstler made the timely documentary *William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe* partly to celebrate their late father (he died in 1995) and partly to reiterate his fundamental beliefs — the beliefs that caused him to defend a wide variety of controversial cases, from Native American civil disobedience at Wounded Knee, South Dakota to the notorious Central Park jogger murder case in New York City to the trial of El Sayyid A. Nosair, accused of murdering Jewish nationalist Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Kunstler was an "armchair liberal" attorney living with his first wife and their children in Westchester County, New York when the Sixties civil rights movement caught his attention. He volunteered to defend arrested activists, and went on to become, in his words, completely radicalized at the bizarre Chicago 7 trial, in which Seale was bound and gagged in the courtroom. The experience taught him to not only recoil from power but to actively resist it. There are times when disobeying the law is a necessity. As he argues in a film clip: "I suspect that better men than the world has known, and more of them, have gone to their deaths through a legal system than through all the illegalities in the history of man."

The Kunstler sisters are part of their father's second family. Using home movies as well as newsreels, they work through their initial doubts about their father taking the cases of defendants like John Gotti, and come to peace with his legacy. "The best thing a person can do," said Kunstler, "is to stand up to injustice, even when no one agrees with you, even if you have to risk everything to do it." ●

To share this story, type: [illegible]/badlieutenant

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Grimaldi (A.G.), Colin Haddow (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans Nicolas Cage stomps around like a [illegible] Eastern-cop with gambling and his troubles in Werner Herzog's nutty modern-day noir, the story of a naughty cop in post-Katrina New Orleans. Is this the beginning of a new era in Genre Land for Herzog, the [illegible] director of [illegible] and documentaries? Let's hope so. Following Cage like a Greek chorus of weirdos are Eva Mendes as his prost girlfriend, Xzibit as a crime boss, Brad Dourif as a bookie, Jennifer Coolidge as a drunk, and Michael Shannon and [illegible] Val Kilmer as fellow police. Also, an alligator, a snake, a dog, and a pair of iguanas. But Cage's rogue detective is the [illegible] animal of all. A fascinating curiosity, and Cage's best since his Junior Brown in *Kiss of Death* (121 min.). (K.V.) S

De Dana Dan Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Sunil Shetty and [illegible] star in this [illegible] drama about the [illegible] and turns his [illegible]. Directed by Priyadarshan. In Hindi with English subtitles. BE

Planet 51 The inhabitants of the planet Glipforg are merely green-faced, plastic-skinned versions of friendly small-town Americans from the 1950s — or is it the Sixties? So when NASA astronaut Chuck Baker (voice of Dwayne Johnson) lands on an exploration mission with his space rover, he doesn't have far to go to convince [illegible] that he's not a marauding "Humaniac" intent on sucking out their brains. This non-threatening animated comedy, a Spanish-US co-prod directed by Jorge Blanco, Javier Abad, and Marcos Martinez, plays best to kids [illegible]. Also among the voices: [illegible] Justin Long, Gary Oldman, and John Cleese (91 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Blind Side Based on the nonfiction book by Michael Lewis, this potent tearjerker tells the story of Michael Oher, a gigantic black teenager from impoverished West Memphis who was accepted at a [illegible] by a local Christian academy and taken in and ultimately adopted by a wealthy white family; he became an All-American offensive tackle who was drafted in the first round this year by the Baltimore Ravens. The story is inspiring and involves sports, but to call it an inspirational sports story would be wrong. Its real center is Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock in a fine performance), the strong-willed [illegible] love and generosity helped turn a mute, hopeless boy with no social or academic skills into a functioning young man with a promising future. Some will call the movie [illegible] paternalistic, and they may well be right, but as a fable about the power of giving, it hits pretty hard. John Lee Hancock (*The Rookie*) directed his own script, with Tim McGraw, Kathy

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. AL = Albany, ATC = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex, [illegible] = Brenden Concord, [illegible] = Blackhawk, [illegible] = Brenden Pittsburg, [illegible] = Bay Street, CA = California, CAPH = CineArts Pleasant Hill, CB = Century Blackhawk, [illegible] = Contra Costa [illegible], CEPH = Century Pleasant Hill, [illegible] = Century Hilltop, [illegible] = Century Hayward, [illegible] = Grand Lake, [illegible] = La Peña, [illegible] = Piedmont, [illegible] = Regal Antioch, [illegible] = Regal Hacienda, [illegible] = Rheem Theater, [illegible] = Shattuck, UAB = UA Berkeley, UAEB = UA Emery Bay, V = Vine, WWS = [illegible]

M&T

[illegible] and [illegible] Aaron as [illegible] (Year [illegible]) [illegible] DC, EP, CWC, CCPH, CUC, CCC, CL, RCC

The Messenger After being wounded in Iraq, a valorous but emotionally repressed soldier (Ben Foster) returns to the States, where the army, displaying all the irony of a Hollywood screenwriter, assigns to him the wrenching duty of notifying parents and spouses that their dears were killed in combat. The scenes of him and his partner (Woody Harrelson) showing up at people's doorsteps down the landmark [illegible] Life on the Street in their unmitigated anguish. But [illegible] writer-director Oren Moverman moves past these [illegible] and [illegible] into the lives of the two soldiers, the movie drifts into received wisdom and unsurprising romance. Alessandro Camon cowrote the script, with Samantha Morton as [illegible], and Steve Buscemi (100 min.) [illegible]

The Twilight Saga: New Moon The follow-up to 2008's Twilight, based on the second of Stephenie Meyer's young-adult vampire romance series, finds Bella and her family leaving the town of Forks, Washington after the [illegible] vampire boyfriend Edward [illegible] dangerous (130 min.) [illegible] ATC, BS, BC, EP, CWC, CR, CCPH, CH, CUC, CCC, CL, DR, RCC, GL, RR, CPC, RA, RR, JL, PCC, UAR, VWS

William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe This worthwhile documentary profile of the [illegible] political leftist lawyer was made by his daughters Emily and Sarah [illegible] partly to celebrate the life and career of their father and partly [illegible] his commitment to standing up against injustice despite heavy odds. Among the underdogs he defended in court: the Chicago 8, Native American activists, several [illegible] murder defendants, and gangster John Gotti. Nice [illegible] of [illegible] news footage (85 min.) (K.V.) S

ONGOING

[illegible] [illegible] urban comedy [illegible] the Manhattan fine art world with great vigor, as a pair of striving [illegible] brothers — one an avant-garde composer (Adam Goldberg, [illegible] than usual), the other (Don Bailey) a painter of corporate canvases — vie for the [illegible] of a lonely gallery owner (Harley [illegible]). Bay Area-based filmmaker [illegible] Parker (Rockabye) fills all the scenes [illegible] with his own [illegible], from [illegible] artists (Vinnie Jones) to gallery [illegible] Fisher to [illegible] Lucy Punch as the something. Think [illegible] (86 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, S

2012 [illegible] Emmerich's [illegible] de résistance is a CGI orgy of crumbling towers, [illegible], [illegible] tidal waves, [illegible], and screaming [illegible] with John Cusack as a writer who would [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] minutes [illegible] around there. The effects are bracing for fifteen minutes or so (out of the two-and-a-half-hour running time), and they keep coming. As the story boils down to the usual Emmerich chase, pieces of The Day After Tomorrow here, a little Poseidon Adventure here, good guys, bad guys. Backing up [illegible] Cusack are Amanda Peet as his ex, Woody Harrelson as an environmental nut, Danny Glover as President of the U.S., Thandie Newton as the First Daughter, Chiwetel Ejiofor as a scientist, Oliver Platt as government [illegible], and [illegible] as a [illegible] trying to buy his way out of the apocalypse. Not a [illegible] just a slight headache. [illegible] by Emmerich and Harald Kloser (158 min.) (K.V.) ATC, BS, BC, EP, CWC, CR, CCPH, CH, CUC, CCC, DR, RR, RCC, GL, CA, CR, CPC, RA, RR, JL, PF, VWS

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A Serious Man The Coen Brothers return to the Minneapolis metro area, but this time they're making fun of Jewish Americans [illegible] of Sweden [illegible] Forget [illegible], bleakly hilarious plight of tired physics professor and suburban [illegible] Larry Gopnik (a [illegible] Michael Stuhlbarg) [illegible] as the [illegible] as everything in the world goes wrong for Larry — and his only [illegible] is [illegible] a series of [illegible], incomprehensible religious [illegible]. There's a joke in here somewhere, and it's on Larry, but after we figure that there's [illegible] a movie left in front of us. As usual in a Coen film the scenes' work is magnificent and the [illegible] parts are beautifully [illegible] (by Sari Lennick, Fred Melamed, [illegible], and Aaron Wolff). But, also as usual, there's something cold and overly [illegible] about it, as if Joel and Ethan were [illegible] "American" stereotypes of the '60s for a [illegible]. Is Larry a [illegible], a [illegible], or a [illegible], and who cares? (105 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, CA, PH, V

Ajab Prem Ki Ghazab Kahani [illegible] Kapoor and [illegible] Kaif star as the lead couple in this Bollywood [illegible] and co-written by Rajkumar Santoshi (Halla Bol). In Hindi with English subtitles. DR

Amelia Amelia Earhart is one of the [illegible] women of the 20th century and lived the kind of [illegible] that [illegible] such a description, [illegible] this, Amelia, starring Hilary Swank as the [illegible] aviator, is [illegible] as [illegible] and dull as a [illegible] history book's account of her life. The [illegible], including [illegible] Mira Nair (The Namesake), seem more [illegible] mythologizing Earhart than truly [illegible] who the woman was. Even an affair with Gore Vidal (Ewan McGregor), with whom Earhart [illegible] create the FAA, is made to seem like an [illegible] minutes. After all, George Putnam (Richard Gere) agreed to marry her with the caveat that she never be kept from flying [illegible] (111 min.) EC, [illegible] ATC, CAPH, CA, PF, RCL, V

An Education A precocious [illegible] high-school student named Jenny (in a magnetic performance by Carey Mulligan) falls head over heels for an [illegible], generous older man named [illegible] (Peter Sarsgaard, with a veneer of charm) and takes off with him to the [illegible], a trip to Paris, etc., circa 1961. But there's something a bit dodgy about David and his friends. Danish [illegible] Lone Scherfig (she did Italian for Beginners) fills this cautionary tale with a [illegible] of visual and [illegible] style and lets her able cast fill the rest, led by Mulligan and Sarsgaard. Alfred Molina as Jenny's boring old father, Emma Thompson and Olivia Williams as two [illegible] schoolmarms, and Sally Hawkins in a quick, pithy role as the bitter woman. The smart screenplay was adapted by novelist Nick Hornby from a [illegible] by journalist Lynn Barber (95 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, AL, PM

Astro Boy [illegible] Tezuka's groundbreaking [illegible] anime series gets a stylish CGI update in this sci-fi adventure. A [illegible], given voice by [illegible] Cage, distraught over the death of his son (Freddie Highmore), re-creates the boy as a robot powered by a blue core of "good" energy. Like the series, the film considers humanity's dependence on and fear of automation, though this new [illegible] has an apocalyptic theme, as a craven politician [illegible] war by harnessing the "bad" energy of a red core (a none-too-subtle [illegible] to recent U.S. electoral showdowns). The lighting, production design, and character modeling are excellent, and [illegible] ([illegible] Away) references Transformers, Wall-E, Terminator, and even [illegible], but the TV series, primitive though it was, had a sweet innocence and [illegible] that made it more fun (94 min.) (A.G.) DC, EP, CD, CCPH, CH, CL, RA, [illegible]

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day The fact

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that *The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day* [illegible] at all is [illegible] to [illegible] following [illegible] around. *The Boondock Saints* original — which, despite [illegible] cult following, was not actually very good. This sequel improves upon it only incrementally. Our Irish [illegible] avengers, Connor (Sean Patrick Flanery) and Murphy MacManus (Norman Reedus) start the movie hiding out as sheepherders in the Motherland, but are summoned [illegible] when a [illegible] killing is pegged on them. [illegible] plenty of [illegible] as well as blood, [illegible] religious [illegible] when [illegible] Tarantino [illegible] (115 min.) (CE, CEPH, CH, [illegible])

The Box In 1976, [illegible] a Virginia couple with an excess of [illegible] (Cameron Diaz, [illegible] Marsden) is given a box by a scary, disfigured gentleman named Arlington Steward (Frank Langella). As Steward explains, the box has a button that, [illegible] pushed, will grant the couple a million [illegible] but will also mean the death of a complete stranger. [illegible] movie [illegible] right? It's the kind of thought-provoking and dark story that [illegible] Kelly (Donnie Darko) [illegible] — but, for once, his story Kelly sets [illegible] with an effective, even satisfying resolution. (115 min.) [illegible]

Bright Star Filmmaker Jane Campion tries something difficult — to show the life and loves of English poet John Keats (Ben Whishaw) and his [illegible] Fanny Brawne (Abbie Cornish) circa 1818 [illegible] "love [illegible]" to help 21st-century audiences [illegible] the [illegible] era. The effort falls a few yards short. [illegible] Written and directed by Campion (*The Piano*), [illegible] (119 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Capitalism: A Love Story [illegible] Moore gets down to [illegible] health care, [illegible] for all and [illegible] documentarian [illegible] — in his idiosyncratic, [illegible] way [illegible] but [illegible] It's probably Moore's most somber doc, a [illegible] of [illegible] dreamers with [illegible] and [illegible] to be sure, by Moore's [illegible] Catholic [illegible] One of Moore's best [illegible] Written and directed by Moore, who co-produced with his wife, Anne Moore (120 min.) (KV) CA

Coco Before Chanel [illegible] Coco Chanel's life [illegible] Audrey Tautou as [illegible] Anne Fontaine's [illegible] — a montage [illegible] of Chanel [illegible] fashion [illegible] (105 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Couples Retreat Ten years ago, Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau were the definition of Hollywood cool in *Swingers*. [illegible] which they [illegible] together, the pair is approaching middle-age, pudgy, and anything but cool. [illegible] That's [illegible] PG-13 [illegible] Jason Bateman [illegible] (107 min.) (CH) CWC, CEPH, CUC, CRC, RA, RH

Disney's A Christmas Carol [illegible] applies the 3-D motion-capture animation of *Beowulf* (2007) and *The Polar Express* (2004) to [illegible] Charles Dickens' tale [illegible] Jim Carey (as Scrooge and the Christmas ghosts) and Gary Oldman (as Marley and Bob [illegible]) (96 min.) (A.L.) [illegible]

The Fourth Kind [illegible] psychologist Milla Jovovich [illegible]

Good Hair Is Chris Rock the new documentarian? In the spirit of Moore's rambling documentaries, comedian Rock — with help from [illegible] and three other [illegible] South Central Los Angeles to Chennai, India, to investigate the world of African-American hair and the $9 billion industry devoted to [illegible] it. With [illegible] we learn all about [illegible]

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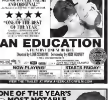

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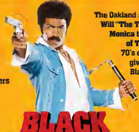

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Inglourious Basterds Quentin Tarantino [illegible] the same thing to World War II Europe with the [illegible] to Los Angeles, Japan, and the [illegible] boulevards — he enters it to suit his purposes. Most of those purposes are [illegible], although the multi-layered story of a [illegible] German SS [illegible] (Waltz), [illegible] Christoph [illegible], a scalp-hunting US Army lieutenant (Brad Pitt), a vengeance-seeking [illegible] (Mélanie Laurent), a squad of [illegible] Jewish-American GIs, and [illegible] Nazi [illegible] may contain a few [illegible]. At an overstuffed two-and-a-half hours, [illegible] bloody, gaudy [illegible] [illegible] incomprehensibility. Still, we have to grudgingly admire a Hollywood [illegible] who's willing to make his [illegible] of enough long subtitles. Dialogue scenes where they'd probably rather [illegible] Pitt [illegible] Nazi [illegible]. They [illegible] have seen the [illegible] "British commando" subplot to a [illegible] scene. Also with Mike Myers, Diane Kruger, Daniel Brühl, and August Diehl. A [illegible] (153 min.) [illegible]

Jail A stark and dramatic Bollywood [illegible] from director Madhur Bhandarkar (Fashion, Traffic Signal). Starring Neil Nitin Mukesh and Mugdha Godse. In Hindi with English subtitles (131 min.) [illegible]

Julie & Julia Meryl Streep [illegible] and [illegible] her way through the kitchens of Paris as [illegible] Julia Child on a [illegible] to make classical French cookery [illegible] in 1950s America. The weaker half of Nora Ephron's [illegible] parallel drama finds contemporary blogger Julie Powell (Amy Adams) paying homage to Child by cooking every one of her recipes — [illegible]? Streep looks as if she's having fun, but Adams' [illegible] shows signs of wear and tear. The film's saving grace is [illegible] Child's [illegible] [illegible]

Showtimes Online

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Julia Child and "use." The [illegible], high-calorie screenplay is by writer-director Ephron, adapting books by Child and Powell. Too [illegible] (123 min.) [illegible]

Law Abiding Citizen Remember [illegible] Wish? Well, what if Charles Bronson went all Saw on the hoodlums who killed his wife and raped his daughter? That's the basic set-up of Law Abiding Citizen, a revenge flick that makes [illegible] as nonsense. Gerard Butler plays Bronson-wannabe Clyde Shelton after his wife and daughter are murdered. He begins a decade-long plan for vengeance against the perps and the self-serving prosecutor (Jamie Foxx) with [illegible] plea bargains and [illegible] at [illegible]. All and despite the fact that Butler has already been [illegible] up for killing one of his family's killers. How is the righteous [illegible] doing it? Well, that's the [illegible] part of the movie and [illegible] the remaining [illegible] (108 min.) (C.H.) BC, EP, CDPH, [illegible]

London Dreams Childhood friends Arjun and Mannu (Ajay Devgan and Salman Khan) escape from their small village in India to Wembley, England and become rock stars. In Hindi with English subtitles. [illegible]

The Maid (La Nana) Raquel, the middle-aged, long-time servant of a large, prosperous household in Santiago, Chile, appears to be heading for some sort of breakdown as the film opens. But director and co-writer (with Pedro Peirano) Sebastián Silva makes us wait for the denouement, the [illegible] observe Raquel's situation and her interaction with "her family" and a succession of "helper" maids. Rare [illegible] actor Catalina Saavedra [illegible] [illegible] Events of [illegible] to the lead role, with wonderful support by Claudia Celedón as the lady of the house and [illegible] Loyola as a [illegible] maid. A triumph of [illegible] (95 min.) (KV) S

The Men Who Stare at Goats George Clooney [illegible] in yet another [illegible] of his military-[illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] written, marginally [illegible] service comedy about the US Army's program to train a battalion of psychic-powered "super soldiers" to conquer the oil fields of Iraq. Peter Straughan's screenplay (adapted from a book and TV [illegible] by Jon Ronson) never really gets its [illegible] despite the presence of Jeff Bridges, Kevin Spacey, and Ewan McGregor as fellow "warrior monks." [illegible] a [illegible]

R. Adams T. [illegible] by Grant Heslov (93 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Michael Jackson's This Is It Compiled from God-knows-how-many hours of rehearsal [illegible] for an upcoming comeback concert tour, This Is It serves as a [illegible] for the King of Pop — not to mention an opportunity for promoters to recoup some of their losses. Director Kenny Ortega [illegible] [illegible] surprisingly [illegible] scenes look at the events leading up to the [illegible] Jackson's death, and the result, while not terribly insightful, proves and [illegible] and [illegible] he was going to deliver as his [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] show was going to be [illegible] in the end. This is it as [illegible] [illegible] entertainment, as the concert-that-never-was it documents (112 min.) (C.H.) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history — and most importantly, mysteries — of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

New York, I Love You If you couldn't get enough of Paris je t'aime and always hoped [illegible] would make a dumbed-down version of that multi-actor multi-filmmaker omnibus for New York City, [illegible] yourself out. However, if you're the type who insists on [illegible] characters and [illegible], and who [illegible] the notion that the city may consist of more than Manhattan, this [illegible] Atlanta to go as forever. Conceptualized by Dubai producer Emmanuel Benbihy and directed by some eleven filmmakers as a string of [illegible] [illegible]. It's a [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] scene-setting starring a "galaxy" of actors with nothing better to do. Robin Wright Penn,

Shia LaBeouf, Natalie Portman, Bradley Cooper, [illegible] Christina Ricci, [illegible] et al. (110 min.) [illegible]

Paranormal Activity A young couple moves and a new suburban tract home only to [illegible] is haunted by a demonic presence that is particularly active at night. Written and directed by Oren Peli (98 min.). ATC, BC, EP, CB, DEPH, CH, CUC, RA, RH, JL, UAB

Pirate Radio The people who can never get enough 1960s rock on the soundtrack, this film event of the year. But practically anyone else can [illegible] a laugh in the [illegible] of [illegible] The [illegible] the Kinks, Who, Troggs, Turtles, Hollies, Easybeats, Jeff Beck, Dusty Springfield, et al. In English [illegible] from a ship anchored in the North Sea

On board are Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost, and Tom Sturridge among the deejays, with a [illegible] Kenneth Branagh as the uptight government minister sworn to shut them down and Emma Thompson as somebody's mod mum. It's a [illegible] [illegible] on the high seas, [illegible] with [illegible] by [illegible] Richard Curtis (Four Weddings and a Funeral) from his own screenplay. British title: The Boat That Rocked (135 min.) (K.V.) EMC, CUC, CAPH, RH, PM, [illegible]

Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire [illegible] story [illegible] information-revealing [illegible] study with a [illegible] of redemption thrown as [illegible] [illegible] (Gabourey Sidibe) and with her whole

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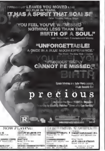
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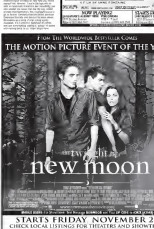
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body and seemingly her entire being as Precious Jones, a Harlem teenager, circa 1987, who suffers all the slings and arrows two monumentally [illegible] parents can hurl at her. Through it all, Precious [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] able to [illegible] so determined — a remarkable transformation. Director Lee Daniels (Shadowboxer), working from Geoffrey Fletcher's adaptation of author Sapphire's young adult novel, doesn't spare us the details of Precious' humiliation, but he doesn't stint on the upside, either. Fine character parts by Mo'Nique as the monster parent, Paula Patton as a classmate and Mariah Carey [illegible] as a welfare officer. (110 min.) [XLV] BB, SC, [illegible] CMC, CR, CH, CUC, [illegible]

SolarMax The story of everyone's favorite flaming ball of gas. CSC

To Be an Astronaut Precious what it takes? Take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift-off! (40 min.) CSC

Where the Wild Things Are Writer-director Spike Jonze, along with co-writer Dave Eggers, has turned [illegible] children's book Where the Wild Things Are into a [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. At least that's what it feels like. Many will say the adaptation, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that's imagined journey to a land populated by moody [illegible] monsters, perfectly captures what childhood feels like, but [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] about hanging out with "wild things" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Definitely not for kids (94 min.) (C,H) AJT, CMC, [illegible], CUC, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible]

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Seinfeld Etc. A Love Story (85 min. 2006). What's It Mean? Considering the College Experience Through Film (PFA, 1:00)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Midsummer Night (58 min. 1935). A Woman's Face: Ingrid Bergman in Europe (PFA, 7:00)

A Woman's Face (104 min. 1938). A Woman's Face: Ingrid Bergman in Europe (PFA, 8:40)

Raiders of the Lost Ark (115 min. 1981). Cult Classics: dozen 4 (PM, midnight)

The Blind Side

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

June Night (90 min. 1940). A Woman's Face: Ingrid Bergman in Europe (PFA, 6:30)

Je T'aime, Je T'aime (91 min. 1968). In Time: The Films of Alain Resnais (PFA, 8:30)

Raiders of the Lost Ark (115 min. 1981). Cult Classics: dozen 4 (PM, midnight)

Black Dynamite (2009). Oakland Underground Film Festival. Co-presented by [illegible] "the [illegible]" [illegible] and Monica the Zio Goodess, [illegible] Jai White and [illegible] Scott Sanderson in person. (DL, midnight)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Jolly Troupers [illegible]

Gestures, Performing Yiddish Culture from Silent Cinema to Avant-Garde Film (PFA, 3:00)

Astronaut Black: Sansara Pioneer [illegible] 1 the 300 min. 1915-41 (PFA, 5:00)

Raiders of the Lost Ark (115 min. 1981). Cult Classics: dozen 4 (PM, 10 am)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Urban Peasants [illegible] (81 min. 1926). Gestures and Gestures: Performing Yiddish Culture from Silent Cinema to Avant-Garde Film (PFA, 7:30)

Boogie Nights (156 min. 1997). Free Movie Night (931 Gilman, Berkeley, 7:30)

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THE MAN (NR)

BAD LIEUTENANT: PORT OF CALL NEW ORLEANS (R)

(UNTITLED) (NR)

MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT (PG)

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THE SAD DISCO STAR

El Perro del Mar's melancholy turns danceable on *Love Is Not Pop*

By Kathleen Wentz

El Perro del Mar

Throughout her career, El Perro del Mar, aka Swedish singer Sarah Assbring, has suffused her records with a personal kind of anguish. Her achingly despondent voice teetered toward breaking in lines like *This loneliness ain't pretty no more* on her 2006 self-titled debut. It could have been a total downer, except that Assbring often chose to pair her pain with the innocently romantic and lighthearted music of 1960s girl groups: angular *she-la-la* choruses, bass handclaps, dramatic strings, and jaunty bass lines. Then, on her follow-up, *From the Valley to the Stars*, the songwriter added sparse, church-like hymnals heavy on organ and the archaic language of praise. Juxtaposing emotions is clearly part of Assbring's MO. So for her third record, she decided to channel her heartbreak through the sounds of disco.

Love Is Not Pop, released last month, marks a stylistic departure for the singer. It's by far her most "upbeat" album to date, although it chronicles the emotions of her breakup with her boyfriend of ten years. In other words, it's still dark. Elastic bass lines, staccato piano chords, and gently pulsating synthesizers simmer underneath her pedal-soft, heavily echoed voice. "For me, I realize a lot of what I find so interesting and captivating about music is that juxtaposing of emotions in every kind of way," she said from a cafe in New York. "Your reactions to music is always kind of immediate. I just knew that with this album I'm moving into another territory in working with rhythms and grooviness and bassiness, while still holding onto what might be considered as characteristic melancholy."

In typical El Perro del Mar fashion, the emotions arrive immediately and bluntly: *I've got something to tell you / don't wanna make you sad*, she announces in the it's-not-you-it's-me breakup opener "Gotta Get Smart." Assbring says the line is directed toward her ex-lover (who also happens to be her sound engineer and worked with her on the album), but it seems she could just as easily be reassuring her fans. Assbring insists she's not aiming to turn everyone downcast. "I don't think I myself see my music as sad," she said, somewhat surprisingly. "It would be really bad for me if I were to realize if people were to understand it as totally sad. Because I think of it somewhere in between — maybe not disturbing in that sense, but in that kind of way that makes it uneasy about what it is you're supposed to feel, what you end up feeling."

Trying to shake off that sad-girl reputation, Assbring hopes *Love Is Not Pop* will inspire listeners to dance (three remixes are included in addition to the seven tracks) — even when she's pleading with her lover to reconsider on the dreamy, late-night "Let Me In." Moving the audience will be her goal when she plays the songs live with a full band at the Great American Music Hall on November 19 and 20. "I try to work with the grooviness and the bassiness of this album," she said. "I hold that as the most important thing with this album. ... And also to make it clear that there is more to me than just this sad girl with a guitar."

Love Is Not Pop also marks Assbring's first collaboration, in this case, with Rasmus Hägg of the Swedish duo Studio, who produced and mixed the record. The singer said that while initially she had been apprehensive about involving someone in what had always been an isolated songwriting process, her last album proved to her that she needed help. "I felt like I have kind of reached my own limits of what I could do on my own," she recalled. She and Hägg had been in touch off and on but their schedules never worked out. This time around, they did.

Assbring wrote all of the music before they got together. But instead of bringing in references of what she wanted the album to sound like, Assbring said they talked about more abstract things. "We talked a lot about feelings and textures and colors," she said. "I was after a more groovy and perhaps more synthetic sound, but it turned out he was more into using actual analog natural sounds. So what we agreed upon was to use natural sounds and instruments and try to make them synthetic or try to blur them out from their natural sound." She said they both agreed upon a late Eighties feel. (The album includes a cover of Lou Reed's 1982 song "Heavenly Arms.")

Elements of her prior two records also appear on *Love Is Not Pop*. "It Is Something (To Have Wept)," inspired by a poem by G.K. Chesterton, begins like a hymn, with just Assbring's voice and gentle piano chords, then ushers in faint a *doo-doo-doo* chorus, synths, and a bass line that grooves lightly, moodily. The holy quality in her music likely came from her background singing in church choirs.

Yet Assbring seems to have been hardwired for sadness since childhood. At age six, she wrote her first song about summer and "living on the beach." "I didn't even realize it was a sad song," she recalled. She wrote it on piano when she couldn't yet read or write music. "I created some very arbitrary way of writing music that I couldn't even read myself but I thought I could at the time."

Music was a constant presence throughout Assbring's life. As an adult, she played in bands in the melancholic shoegaze scene. But she was also studying languages and wasn't yet ready to risk a full-on music career. Eventually, she said, she reached a point where she stopped making music and completely reevaluated what she was doing. "I was half hearted about everything except the music," she said. "It took me a while to have the guts to completely focus on the music. When I did, there was no doubt in my mind."

This was the "deconstruction time" in her life, she said, when she deeply questioned what she wanted to do, how she wanted to write lyrics, and what was important to say. When she decided that she wanted to return to music, she took her steps carefully. After years of playing piano, she learned the guitar. The process was ultimately responsible for the minimalist approach she ended up employing as a solo artist in El Perro del Mar. (The name originated when a stray dog tried to befriend her while on a lonely beach vacation in Spain.)

Her first album most encapsulated this deconstructed aesthetic, wherein world-crushing feelings were boiled down to their very essence. "It was very minimal but very direct," she said. "It was like a direct tool to express myself. It was almost like Dadaism." Having been inspired by writers and poets such as E. E. Cummings, Assbring says oftentimes a simple word or phrase would inform the melody of a song. "It's all about the written form, I think," she said. "There is something about words that can almost feel musical. A sentence can have a harmony built in itself. I feel that is a very fascinating thing."

That sparse, direct language continues on her new album when Assbring accepts the inevitability of her relationship's demise in closer "A Better Love": *This isn't over till I say "when."* "*When*," she sings, her voice trickling down over the notes in as resigned a fashion as her fate. It may not be the next disco hit — more like a solo slow-dance jam with Kleenex. ●

Show Details

El Perro del Mar plays at the Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco) on Thursday and Friday Nov. 19 and 20, 9 p.m. $21, $23. GAMH.com

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Japanese underground sensation Dir en grey is the very definition of a cult band

By Kristy Evans

Its albums and singles frequently chart in its homeland despite relatively little mainstream exposure, due to a positively rabid following that buys everything it releases on pre-order. Tickets to its concerts sell out so fast that fans have to resort to buying them on Yahoo auctions. Its followers in America camp out overnight in front of concert venues just to get a spot close to the stage. More than ten years into its career, Dir en grey still inspires a sort of hormonal adolescent reaction that's usually associated with boy bands — although musically it couldn't be further from such territory.

Dir en grey

In terms of style they're hard to pin down. Even guitarist and unofficial spokesman Kaoru can't seem to do it, stating that they're a hard rock band, but they're not quite sure which specific category they fit into. Singer Kyo writes all the lyrics, but all five members write the music, and that clash of varying tastes and styles is a big part of what keeps Dir en grey interesting. "We try to focus on each individual, and we focus our minds on the tension of our performances," said Kaoru. "We're putting emphasis on how we can create a mood on the stage individually one by one." With a back catalog that features metal, punk, hard rock, some lovely acoustic-driven ballads, a few pretty pop songs, and even a string section and a chorus of singing children on "Ain't Afraid to Die," the band has always been stylistically diverse and it seems to like it that way.

And then there are the visuals. Clearly influenced by the Japanese ero-guro movement, which blends the creepy and the erotic to create disturbingly memorable images, Dir en grey's videos are part of what initially brought them into the public eye. Over the last few years the members have abandoned the cross-dressing and unnaturally bright hair of their youth, but they continue to use imagery to complement and enhance the mood of their songs.

Show Details
Dir en grey plays the Fillmore (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco) on Monday, Nov. 23, 8 p.m. $23. LiveNation.com

Perhaps the oddest thing about Dir en grey is that it's them, rather than more mainstream Japanese artists like Glay or Utada Hikaru, that have have made the biggest impact on this side of the ocean. In terms of ticket or record sales, Dir en grey is unquestionably the eight hundred pound gorilla of the J-rock scene in America. It's an interesting phenomenon built mostly on the backs of a devoted hardcore fanbase long before Dir en grey actually toured America, it had a substantial presence on the internet, created not by the band but by its fans. While a number of other Japanese bands do small American tours covering only a handful of cities, mostly for PR purposes and to create goodwill among its American fans, Dir en grey does full national tours that actually make money. Only experimental rockers Boris experience a similar level of success.

The band itself seems to have been totally unprepared to see its Japanese fandom replicate itself in America. "We didn't know what the reaction of the fans in the US would be, and once we got here we were surprised how many dedicated fans there were," said Kaoru. The reaction is quite something to witness. Dir en grey's fans are so devoted it's almost frightening, their relationship to the band an odd mix of identification with dark emotions that are usually shoved politely out of sight and sheer lust, because they are, after all, an unusually good looking band. That tension between the band and its mostly female fanbase is reinforced by a savvy marketing machine that puts out a constant stream of images and promotional videos, but never enough to oversaturate.

As a result, America has become a regular part of Dir en grey's touring schedule. The band's first full solo tour in 2007 was a shot in the dark but ultimately paid off. Still, the members refuse to categorize themselves and stubbornly hold to their own unique vision. "I think each person has a different perception about our music," said Kaoru.

Dark and disturbing, weird and deliberately provocative, Dir en grey isn't quite like any other current band. The pretty faces don't exactly hurt, but it's their uniqueness that's really put them on the map. As Kaoru sums it up, "If I was to explain my band, I'd say it's a dramatic rock band that has a lot of emotion in it." ●

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THE FALL OF PIRATE CAT RADIO

Local activists join the national fight for vibrant, local radio

By David Downs

The Bay Area's biggest pirate radio station is off the air, fined $10,000 for illegal broadcast, and its owner threatened with arrest if he returns. But Pirate Cat Radio isn't going quietly into the night.

Not only is the thirteen-year-old San Francisco station still quasi-legally streaming to half a million listeners online per month, but the 1,200-watt station formerly broadcasting at 87.9 FM is fighting the Federal Communications Commission in federal court. While the station is raising funds to pay its fine with local events this month, it has joined a historic battle under way in Washington, DC, over local control of the airwaves. Station owner Monkey (aka Daniel Roberts) says terrestrial radio has failed to serve the public interest, and Pirate Cat is fighting for consumer rights alongside pirates and politicians across America.

The current plan of attack includes challenging the FCC's case in court, where Berkeley communications lawyer Michael Couzens — a former FCC official — says he will dispute evidence that Monkey was involved in broadcasting the signal. The FCC has evidence of Monkey working the sound boards at the station's studio/cafe in San Francisco. But Couzens says the FCC has no evidence of him operating a transmitter since 2001. He maintains that "fans" of the site have rebroadcasted Pirate Cat's web-based stream from all around the Bay Area. Point in fact: Since the fine, Pirate Cat has been picked up by broadcasters as far and wide as Vancouver and Honduras. The unprecedented case could take months or even years to wend its way through the regulatory agency.

Meanwhile, the station has started raising funds through events at bars, music shows, and merchandise sales. The station is run by enthusiastic musicians, artists, and photographers that rank among the most plugged-in members of the Bay Area digerati. On November 20, Triple Crown will host a benefit dance party, and on December 5, Sub-Mission Art Space will host a Pirate Cat Radio benefit and auction. The station is selling calendars, T-shirts, and beer cozies online.

The station's problems could not have come at a better time for national exposure. The movie *Pirate Radio*, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman, just hit theaters. Pirate Cat Radio DJ Meg Escuede interviewed director Richard Curtis for her Sunday show, where Curtis performed station promos and said local advertising for the movie would mention Pirate Cat's plight.

Even bigger, a "Low Power FM" bill is wending its way through Washington that would allow hundreds of noncommercial 100-watt stations with a three- to five-mile footprint to flourish in major metropolitan areas. Low Power FM was passed by Congress yet banned in major metro areas in 2002 because the National Association of Broadcasters, representing chains like Clear Channel, successfully lobbied that it would interfere with their signals. However, a subsequent study disproved this, and a bill to repeal the ban has sailed through committee hearings in the House, and awaits a floor vote.

"This is one of those 'call your congressman' moments," said Candace Clement, spokesperson for first amendment rights group Free Press in Washington, DC. The last twenty years will go down in history as a dark time for diversity on the airwaves, she said. Thanks to the deregulation of radio in 1994, corporate chains went on a buying spree, firing local DJs and homogenizing content.

A Free Press study in 2007 shows that commercial radio in America operates under de facto racial and gender apartheid, and dissolving media ownership rules made the situation worse. Of the roughly 15,000 commercial radio stations in America, less than 6 percent are owned by women and just 7.7 percent are owned by ethnic minorities. Some communities like Bakersfield have majority minority populations without a single broadcaster of color.

"I don't think that that's necessarily what Americans want," said Clement. "The media influences and informs so much of our lives, our world view and democratic processes, and when you have almost all media controlled by five or six companies you're completely lacking the diversity of perspectives and viewpoints."

The Free Press notes that studies show smaller, locally controlled stations play more news and have more diverse content. The FCC's attacks against individuals building their own antennas and risking fines and imprisonment to broadcast indicates a desire for something different, says Clement.

"I do think the fact that there are so many pirate operations out there speaks to a need that's not being met in the community, and there are a lot of them," she added. "It's striking how much people want this."

Show Details
Pirate Cat Radio's DJ Derwin, Anthony Manalili!, Miss Bee Trake and Sweater Funk host a dance party benefit at the Triple Crown (1760 Market St., SF) on Friday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m. $5 before 10 p.m., $10.

California Association of Broadcasters president Stan Statham counters that "there's plenty of room for everybody" if they want to pay for a license and a station, which can run into the millions of dollars. For example, San Francisco's gay dance music station Energy 92.7 was just sold for $6.5 million to a firm now piping in "alternative" from Palm Springs.

"Pirate radio folks are of the mind that the airwaves belong to the public," said Statham. "Well, that is not correct. You can't just let everybody use the same door. It just turns into an ugly mob and people abuse it."

The Free Press says the airwaves are public property, and stations must include programming that benefits the public in exchange for use of them. "They're making untold millions of dollars off the airwaves and giving the public nothing."

The FCC's local Enforcement Bureau in Pleasanton and FCC spokesperson Janice Wise in Washington declined to comment on the Pirate Cat case. "It's considered an ongoing issue," said Wise. Indeed. ●

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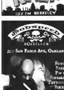
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CD REVIEWS

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Heavy Trash

Midnight Soul Serenade

When it comes to amalgamations of American roots music — mid-1950s rock 'n' roll, country, rockabilly, and assorted styles of blues, R&B/soul, etc. — most bands usually take one of two tacks. Some are earnest and respectful (Scott Miller & the Commonwealth, Steve Earle) while some are over-the-top irreverent (the Cramps, Billy Childish).

Heavy Trash, the duo of Jon Spencer (as in Blues Explosion) and Matt Verta-Ray, try for a balance of the two — the playing and singing is heartfelt, but there's plenty (yet not too much) of nudge-wink humor, purposefully melodramatic vocals, and so much echo and funkiness it may've well been recorded in the late Lux Interior's sub-basement. "Bedevilment" will warm the hearts of those lamenting the loss of the Cramps. "Bubble Gum," an oldie made famous by the Searchers and LaVern Baker (who wrote it) is given a careening, Yardbirds-like rave-up, and it'll likely evoke the feeling of the best Saturday-into-Sunday parties you've ever attended. Give your Barry White and Isaac Hayes discs a rest and play the loping, bluesy, oozing-from-the-swamp romp "Isolation" for someone you love (or like a lot) to set some kind of uhh mood.

While this album doesn't reach the same levels of wiry energy as their previous *Going Way Out With*, *Midnight Soul Serenade* is jolly good fun nonetheless. Who knows, perhaps this more measured approach might garner new fans. (Big Legal Mess/Fat Possum)

—Mark Keresman

The Mumlers

Don't Throw Me Away

Without any retro accoutrements, San Jose's Mumlers draw upon classic acoustic Americana (no Gram *Parsons* or Uncle Tupelo here, sorry) for their cozy, out-of-time style. Superficially the Mumlers (using banjo, horns, glockenspiel, ukulele along with standard rock instrumentation) resemble Tom Waits' ramshackle, battered, fractured approach, but there's a lot more to their equation.

Echoes of the Band's *Music from Big Pink*, Dylan's early gone-electric period, and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band can be heard wafting through their songs, but the Mumlers aren't overly obvious about it. In fact, restraint is their strong suit, never going the "aren't we so clever 'n' quirky" or lo-fi-for-its-own-sake routes. They don't limit themselves — "Raise the Blinds" with its N'awlins chugging rhythm, has flickering passages for flute and horns recalling Duke Ellington's orchestral outings. The nifty melodramatic instrumental "Soot Black Suit" sounds like a savvy Salvation Army Band playing cool 1960s soundtrack music from Westerns (first half) and James Bond movies (second half). Further, the Mumlers draw upon an aspect of "Americana" sometimes overlooked, namely soul/rhythm & blues. The swinging, organ-driven "Coffin Factory" (evoking Eric Burdon & the Animals) and the plaintive title track, rich with sultry Southern soul (Al Green, Eddie Floyd), Will Sprott's understated, slightly rough-hewn vocals conveying a genuine sense of weary, aching desire.

Don't Throw Me Away is accomplished without being slick, chilled-out without being lethargic. Two thumbs up. (Galaxia)

—M.K.

The Mumlers perform Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Rickshaw Stop (155 Fell St., SF). RickshawStop.com

Tinariwen

Imidiwan: Companions

While many rockers, rappers, and punks sing (or rant) about life lived on the edge, some lack any frame of reference. Take Tinariwen, a band consisting Tuareg tribespeople from the deserts of Northwestern Africa. The Tuaregs are traditionally nomadic but some were "compelled" into involuntary military service. Tinariwen came together in refugee camps, and while their forefathers picked on lutes and played shepherds' flutes, these hep gents (and ladies) took to electrified guitars, bass, and assorted percussion to convey their brand of blues. (As their lyrics deal with subjects like exile and repression, Tinariwen's music is banned in Algeria and Mali.) And "blues" it is. While the blues (as a form) has origins in Africa, blues — specifically the folk-based styles of electric blues soloists John Lee Hooker and Lightnin' Hopkins — has impacted Tinariwen mightily.

Many songs on *Imidiwan: Companions* have haunting, cyclic structures buoyed by wiry, sharp guitar motifs and embellished by stinging, bent notes and discreet touches of distortion. Their songs feature chant-like choruses and plaintive, dry-as-sand lead vocals with some of the melisma found in traditional Arabic and North African music. The pensive "Assouf Ag Assuf" shimmers and smolders like early hallucinogenic Pink Floyd, while "Tenhert" is a rousing highway song for a land where there are few roads. The closer "Desert Wind" is the best all-feedback track since *Live/Dead*'s "Feedback."

When this lot sings about an itinerant lifestyle, they're not referring to nights spent in hotel rooms — but their approach, like blues, is possessed by an exultant quality of resilience and joy despite turmoil and uncertainty. Imagine if My Bloody Valentine had grown up in Casablanca — they might've sounded like Tinariwen. Two thumbs way up. (World Village)

—M.K.

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/pr/od3

LOCAL LICKS

Hey Young Believer

Invisible by Day

Benevolent note to young bands: unless you play punk, don't put sixteen songs on your debut album. Even if you think they're all good. That's Hey Young Believer's main mistake, as most of the pure, peppy pop-rock songs are solid on their own — lead singer Lily Walker's classical training makes sure of it. Unfortunately, en masse their impact is blunted. (self-released)

At Hotel Utah (400 4th St., San Francisco) on November 19. 9 p.m., $8.

Vinyl

Fogshack Music Volume Two

Leadoff track "Jelly James Jam" is a formless freak-out featuring funky guitar, bluesy harmonica, psychedelic Hammond, and wah-wah guitar, and a prominent disco beat. Vinyl's sophomore effort, featuring Les Claypool, Yossi Fine, Felonious, the Rondo Brothers, and others, seamlessly blends the noodley jam band and beat-driven club scenes. (Avila Street Records)

At the Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco) on November 25. 9 p.m., $15.

Corinne West

The Promise

Corinne West left home at age fifteen to rove in the company of artists and activists. Years later, her work as a folk singer-songwriter seems to carry with it the spirit of those times. There's a freewheeling energy to her soft, introspective roots style, and an understated brilliance to the album as a whole. (Make Records)

At Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison St., Berkeley) on November 20. 8 p.m., $19.50.

Camp Out

Closer

Contributing to San Francisco's vibrant indie-pop scene, Camp Out makes comfortable, upbeat music that should appeal to fans of mainstream pop and independent music alike. Band members Maddy Hanks and Jacine Law co-produced and self-released *Closer* without any label, but their melodies and harmonies best most industry-groomed pop. (self-released)

At Hotel Utah (400 4th St., San Francisco) on November 19. 9 p.m., $6.

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Blues Revue

Boogie Woogie Holiday featuring Boogie Paulie, Steve Lucky, Mitch Woods, & Caroline Dahl, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $24

Singer-Songwriter Evening w/ host & performer Paul Manousos, plus Boogie Experience now, 8:30 p.m. free

More Listings Online

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Classical & Opera

Frank Jaffe solo guitar. Cafe Cesar Wine Bar, Restaurant & Gallery, 7-9 p.m. free

New Century Chamber Orchestra Berkeley, First Congregational Church, 8 p.m. $32-$44

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Lenz Mann swing jazz. King Tsin Chinese Restaurant, 8:30-9 p.m. free

Emily Park Trio Anna's Jazz Island, 8 p.m. $10

Rod Dibble The Alley, 9 p.m. free

Skip Mesquite and Marianne Dibble Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 p.m. free

Thursday Night Live rotating live bands, Ace's Taproom, 8:30 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Mojo Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m. $5

Prince J's Juke Box featuring Penny Dean, Lavay Hunnicutt, & more. Stork Club, 9 p.m. $5

The Spazmatics Tilt's Irish Sports Bar, 10 p.m. free

Mono Crooked Unknown Fox Theater, 8 p.m. $48.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Thursday Night Live live music every week, Yoshi's Nightclub, 7 p.m. $6-$12

Unplugged live R&B, soul, & jazz, plus fire after 10 p.m. Club Anton, 8 p.m. $10-$15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Marisa singing Portuguese Fado, Zellerbach Hall, 8 p.m. $24, $36, $48, $60

Salsa Night w/ DJ Eddie T, plus Steve Ito,

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Pinky Dunn Bus Stop Cafe, 8 p.m. free

The Hidden Cameras w/ Gentleman Reg, Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m. $12-$14

Kevin Thomas Trio Thomas & Belly's, 6-11:30 p.m. $15

King's Night all-star blues jam, Skip's Tavern, 9 p.m. free

Tom Mannello Trio w/ Shake Rattle, Club Quartet, Cricket, 9 p.m. $7

Classical & Opera

Angela Oberlee & La Pieta Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $48

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Dreamdrift Luggage Store Gallery, 8 p.m. $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bobbie Holmes & Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$27

Laurent Fourgo & His Ensemble French & American jazz standards, Le Colonial, 7:30-10 p.m. free

Stompy Blues Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

Thomas Pandolfi Presents "Pardon My Brooklyn Accent" featuring Mark Sargent, Marlene Popovic, Donald Arquilla, Michael Lowe, & the Don Shaw Trio, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m. $12-$15

Vintage Jazz Swell The Movie Stars, 9 p.m. tba

Rock & Pop

Gentleman w/ Hypnodisc, Rx Bra, Blackguard, & La Red Motel. DNA Lounge, 8 p.m. $15-$22

Marshmallow w/ Elle Mere, Camp Out, & Hey Young Believer, Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $6

Mean Indian w/ the Lilac & Nowhere Ritz Jewel, Bottom of the Hill, 8 p.m. $10 under 18 $12

Pablo Ojeda & Jabas w/ El Perro Del Mar, Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m. $21-$23

Rhythmapp w/ the Hawkins, The Regency Ballroom, 8 p.m. $30-$35

Mono Ball w/ Grand Lake, Ash Reiter, Rickshaw Stop, 9 p.m. $7

Bamboo Love Red Devil Lounge, 8 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Eddie Moran The Fillmore, 7 p.m. $38.50

Jon Regen w/ Crystal Monee Hall, Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 p.m. $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Gog 4 Los Niños Mojito, 9:50 p.m. free

Flamenco Thursdays Carola Zertuche presents music & dance w/ Flamenco Bohemio performers, Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m. $12

FRIDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Appaloosa Saddle Rack, 9 p.m. $5

Donald Thorton Saddle Rack, 8 p.m. $5

Buxter Hoot'n w/ Guns for San Sebastian, Fred Trophy, Starry Plough, 9:30 p.m. $7

Carolyn Wonderland Freight & Salvage, 8 p.m. $18.50-$19.50

Grassland Music Roundup Saloon, 9 p.m. free

Lil' Pookie And His Zydeco Band plus Zydeco Blues Blast, 8:15 p.m. Eagles Hall, 8 p.m. $15

Steve Oswald w/ Jarvis, Cafe Van Kleef, 9:30 p.m. $7

The Devil Makes Three Paramount Theatre, 8 p.m. $35-$40

Classical & Opera

Flamenco Fridays featuring Rosaura Torres & Caroline en Bolsas, 7:30-10:30 p.m. free

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Oakwood w/ Ribbon Plus, 55 Theater, 8 p.m. tba

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Jones Plus Trio Spotsalemme, 8 p.m. free

Jelly Holmes Anna's Jazz Island, 8 p.m. $14

Jimbo's B Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

Karl Blau Trio Amnesia's, 8 p.m. $10

Rod Dibble The Alley, 9 p.m. free

Holmes Beauty Saloon Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $10-$20, kids' Thomas $5

Rock & Pop

Quartet w/ the Atom Age, Dope Objects, & 8 O'Clock News, 924 Gilman, 7 p.m. $8

Lady Thomas w/ Donald Holmes Saloon, Stork Club, 9 p.m. $8

Clampits w/ Sundrof, Tornado Have & Goodbye Gadget, Uptown, 9 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Jerry Kennedy 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, 7:30 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Celebrating the Bombard the Volo Colo featuring Vladimir Vukasovich, Holmes Rosa Lia Santos, Baxter Holmes Carmen Britto, Pedro Gonzalez, & Javier Norton, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 p.m. $13-$15

Kenneth Baxter live flamenco guitar, Bregman on Solano, 7:30 p.m. free

Lisbeth Scott w/ Spirit, Eden Trails, Rubamadre, 8 p.m. $15-$20

Pop Thomas w/ Tito y Su Son de Cuba, plus salsa dance lesson at 8:30 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m. $10-$13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Earl Thomas & the Blues Ambassadors Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 p.m. $17

Sea Lavender Noe Valley Ministry, 8:15 p.m. $20-$22

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Sleepytime Gorilla Museum w/ Faun Fables, The Independent, 9 p.m. $15-$18

Thollem w/ Sketchbox w/ Rood Nilsson, Aurora, Chris Brown, & more, San Francisco Community Music Center, 8 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bonnie Kindred Babylon Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$27

Lee Holmes Bus Stop Cafe, 9 p.m. free

Patti Austin Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $15-$38, kids' Thomas $5

Rock & Pop

Oddy & Emily 36 Holmes w/ Michael Zapruder, Paul Bertolino, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m. $10

Flora Wanda The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $25

Clorox w/ Audrey Howard and the Mittens, View From Space, Bottom of the Hill, 10 p.m. $10

El Dupa w/ the Matel, Cutanneous, Annie's Social Club, 10 p.m. $7

The Fiery Furnaces w/ Cryptacize, Bent, Mez, Slim's, 9 p.m. $16

Gala Swedish American Hall, 8 p.m. $15

Mono Bo w/ Splendor, Kimo's, 8 p.m. $8

Mendoza Blues w/ Off with Their Heads, Phobia, & Cauldron, Thee Parkside, 9 p.m. $16

Heads Space & Talks w/ El Perro Del Mar, Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $21-$23

Sax Station U2 tribute, Red Devil Lounge, 8 p.m. $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Anti-Pop Consortium Mezzanine, 8:30 p.m. $18

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Lee Crawford Experience Coda, 10 p.m. $10

Cuban Nights Peña Pachamama, 9:30 p.m. $15.00

Fiesta in The Club w/ guest, Cafe du Nord,

PICKS

Dethklok, Mastodon, High on Fire

The line between ridiculous metal and awesome metal can be a fine one indeed. Hence, while the animated Adult Swim cartoon *Metalocalypse* (which follows the fictional death metal band **Dethklok**) pokes fun at the scene's many clichés, it also helped launch the career of the "real-life" band Dethklok. The brainchild of semi-legendary musician Brendon Small, the band has produced two fleshed-out albums with a sound that nods to American death metalers Cannibal Corpse and Swedish Viking metal band Amon Amarth, among others. Currently on tour to support *The Dethalbum II*, Dethklok shows a pretty serious supporting lineup including Atlanta's **Mastodon**, **Converge**, and Oakland's **High on Fire**, who'll unveil songs from its new album *Snakes for the Divine*, slated for a February 2010 release date. The band ends its national tour at the **San Jose Event Center** (290 S. 7th St., San Jose) on Saturday, Nov. 21, 6:30 p.m., $34.50. Ticketmaster.com. — *Kathleen Wentz*

Keller Williams

One-man jam band **Keller Williams** plays his own custom-made ten-string guitar, as well as bass, drums, four trumpet, huge keyboards, and percussion, all while dancing barefoot on stage and flashing his irrepressible smile. His largely acoustic sets are an impossible-to-nail-down, pin-wheeling aural kaleidoscope of sound that morphs seamlessly across a broad range of styles: jam, funk, reggae, techno, bluegrass, folk, blues, Celtic, and more. Favorites from his dozen or so CDs flow into long instrumental passages and new songs full of hallucinogenic playfulness. This gig is a benefit for the Rex Foundation, an organization that helps support grassroots community organizations. On Saturday, Nov. 21, at the **Great American Music Hall** (859 O'Farrell St., San Francisco). 9 p.m., $25. GAMH.com — *J. Poet*

Kiss

Say what you want about Gene Simmons but the man has never been dishonest about being in the business to make a buck and get laid whenever possible. In terms of hubris and business acumen, the Donald would be hard pressed to come close to being as shameless a self-promoter — Trump Plaza Atlantic City and *The Apprentice* not withstanding. So it goes that the dog and pony show that is **Kiss** will be swinging through the Bay Area with the Alive 35 Tour. Members of the Kiss Army will be pleased to know that this gig not only consists of a two-and-a-half hour show with new costumes and pyro, but will feature material off the new 3-CD set *Sonic Boom*, which includes the band's first new material in eleven years. Simmons will be bringing his appetite for profit and women with a yen for bawdy behavior around on Sunday, Nov. 22, to the **ORACLE Arena** (7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland). 7:30 p.m., $52.75-$125. Coliseum.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

New Century Chamber Orchestra

Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and the **New Century Chamber Orchestra** are right on track for another potentially fabulous concert. This time, the always vital composer William Bolcom's "Serenata Notturna" for oboe and strings (with Laura Griffiths on oboe) and "Three Rags" for string quartet are paired with Richard Strauss' gorgeous, transporting late work "Metamorphosen." It should be a delicious evening. At **First Congregational Church** (2345 Channing Way, Berkeley) on Thursday, Nov. 19, 8 p.m., $32-$54. NCCO.org or 415-392-4400. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Raphael Saadiq

Original Tony! Toni! Toné! frontman **Raphael Saadiq** absconded to Los Angeles several years ago, but he still has a strong sense of rootedness in the Oakland R&B scene. Born Charles Ray Wiggins, the half-brother to another celebrity member of the Wiggins family — Saadiq spent years crooning slow-jam hits before deciding to apply his inimitable falsetto to old soul. He exchanged his hip-hop threads for pressed suits, V-neck sweaters, and oversize glasses, modeling himself after the late Motown singer Eddie Kendricks. More importantly, he traded those bedrock beats and synthesizers for live instrumentation. And in traditional Motown fashion, Saadiq acted as his own band, playing all the drum and bass parts — and even some lead guitar — for his popular 2008 album, *The Way I See It*. He stayed in the throwback vein with this year's singles "100 Yard Dash" and "Let's Take a Walk." Both combine peppy, gospel-influenced R&B with increasingly raunchy lyrics. Apparently, changes in personal style need not precipitate a shift in mores. Raphael Saadiq performs Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Fox Theater (1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) 7:30 p.m., $39.50. TheFoxOakland.com — *Rachel Swan*

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Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants 2008 and Top 10 New Restaurants of 2008 – San Francisco Chronicle

tonight! Wed. November 18 (8pm: Early Show) SHANA MORRISON

tonight! Wed. November 18 (10:00pm: Late Show) TAMIKA NICOLE *The Art of Letting Go CD Release*

tomorrow! Thurs. November 19 (8pm: Early Show) Yoshi's Classics Series and KDFC present ANGÈLE DUBEAU & LA PIETÀ

tomorrow! Thurs. November 19 (10:00pm: Late Show) JOE BAGALE with Crystal Monee Hall

this weekend! Fri, Sat, Sun November 20, 21, 22 Grammy Award Winning R&B/Jazz Star PATTI AUSTIN

next week! Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs November 23, 24, 25, 26 SEPTETO NACIONAL Before Buena Vista Social Club and Afro-Cuban All Stars there was Septeto Nacional. Give Thanks For Cuba! CUBAN BANDS ARE BACK! HISTORIC FIRST RUN! First Stateside Appearance Since 1933!

next week! Mon. November 23 (10:00pm: Late Show) COLOUR *Deep Oceans/Blue Skies CD Release* ($2 with advance ticket purchase only)

Fri, Sat, Sun November 27, 28, 29 A Thanksgiving Tradition... TUCK & PATTI

Late Night Live! Every Tuesday [illegible]

tonight! Wed. November 18 FRED HERSCH (solo piano)

tomorrow! Thurs. November 19 MITCH WOODS' BOOGIE WOOGIE BLOWOUT featuring PINETOP PERKINS plus Steve Lucky, Mitch Woods, and Caroline Dahl

this weekend! Fri, Sat, Sun November 20, 21, 22 WALLACE RONEY QUINTET with Antoine Roney Saxophone, Rashaan Carter Bass, Aruan Ortiz Piano, Kush Abadey Drums

next week! Mon. November 23 HEAD ROYCE with special guest JOE MANIS TRIO

next week! Tues. November 24 JEFF HAMILTON TRIO

Wed. November 25 DANNY LOZADA

Fri, Sat, Sun November 27, 28, 29 PEABO BRYSON

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C&C

9:30 pm, $12-$15
Smoke [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible]. [illegible] dance. 10 pm, $12-$15

SATURDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bodies Thurston Saddle Rack. 10 pm, $5
Bob Gunn Songwriter showcase featuring Jon Gunn, Lynn Smith, Larry Rock, Alan Manoson, [illegible] & Kevin [illegible]. Nomad Cafe. 7:30 pm, free
[illegible] McDonald & Brand of Woody Guthrie Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists. 7 pm, $25-$100
[illegible] Bill Freight & Salvage. 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50
[illegible] Joint Salomon Dindogg & [illegible] [illegible] Barbeque. 9 pm, free
Rock St. Mary Louisiana Band and Zydeco Band plus Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 8 pm. Ashkenaz. 9 pm, $10-$12
Soft' Bo w/ Salomon [illegible], Kaddillove Theatre. 8 pm, $20-$40
Sugar Mike acoustic delta blues. Cafe Sorrento. 2-4 pm, free
Wild at Heart Saddle Rack. 7:15 pm, $5

Classical & Opera

Diablo Nova performing Beethoven's "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage," "Mass in C," & "Elegy." Arts Congregational Church. 8 pm. $20, seniors $18, students $11
[illegible] Quest violin, w/ John Quest, piano. Trinity Chapel. 8 pm. $12, seniors/students $8
Pennsylvania Moderne & Two Guitars performing Across the Ages. The Italian Museum Alden Noah [illegible] St. John's Presbyterian Church. 7:30 pm, $22-$25

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Bond of Sorrow featuring Larry Bebe, Sam Goldberg, Mathias Bock, Jon Evans, Will Bonbo, & Scott Amendola. Starry Plough. 9:30 pm, $8
This Here Show improvised variety show. Comedy Mini! Wrapper Amy & Heckberg, Mary Armentrout, Tim Thompson, & Andrew Jude. Townsend Arts Center. 8 pm, $5-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Frankye Kelly & [illegible] Bar and Anna's Jazz Island. 8 pm, $14
Pinky Diablo Spinnakermonk. 8 pm, free
The Golden Bar of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy w/ California Flight. Johnny B's. 8 pm, $15-$20, includes free food
Live@the Library 2009 Concert Series Comedy and assorted Mountain High School Jazz Workshop. Saltman Free Library. 8 pm, $15
Red Stable The Alley. 8 pm, free
Donal Carter Trio [illegible]. 8 pm, free
Taylor Rigel & Jullian Lage Duo [illegible] Auditorium. 8 pm, $36

The Very Bad Boys Jamesfest. 8 pm, $12
Yolanda Henry Band Yoshi's. 8 & 10 pm, $18-$18, kids' Yolanda $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ the Underground [illegible], Candyland, Holliday, [illegible] & the [illegible]. 924 Gilman. 7:30 pm, $8
Life in 24 Bands w/ Light from Above, Bleeding Trance, & Cole [illegible]. Stork Club. 8 pm, $8
Los Amigables De La Rock Saturday morning children's show w/ live music. La Peña Cultural Center. 10:30 am, $6, kids $4
[illegible]alypse Ingense, Overkill, Mastodon, High on Fire, & [illegible]. San Jose State Events Center. 6:30 pm, $34.50

Funk, Soul, R&B & Hip-Hop

Sonido Folk Entertainment Kimball's Carnival. 8 pm, free
[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef. 9 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Café Samba Fox Theater. 8 pm, $39.50
[illegible] [illegible] show. La Peña Cultural Center. 11:30 am. $8, children $4
Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live dance. Sweet Fingers. 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Guards w/ [illegible] Lee [illegible]. Plough and Stars. 9:30 pm. TBA

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[illegible] 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-3300
[illegible] 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-3321
The Vibe Lounge 2272 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 510-488-9882
Vinnie's Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-5515
[illegible] Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450
[illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4250
[illegible] Bar 6050 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988
Zoe's Salonge 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-628-9124

Gordon Jones 3 Rebecca Noe Valley Ministry, 8:15 pm, 415-810

Gordon Jones 3 Rebecca Noe Valley Ministry, 4:15 pm, 415-412

Defenders of Mission Aneen folk music w/ Sean Maguire, Café Musique, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free

Octavent w/ Lily Taylor, Kate Sypst Café, 8 pm, free

Roe Plaza & the Mighty Flyers Johnson 4 Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $22

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera performing Berkeley bravos, plans: New Mediums Opera Boston, 4 pm, 415-8310

Experimental & Avant-Garde

"The Contingent Universe" an experiment in Performance and resonance led by Kanwu Amu Plastinu/ Boston Green Cathedral, 7:15 pm, Wallace

Keller Goodson Bone Orchestral Music Hall, 5 pm, $25

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Grand Baseball Noonday Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, 415-577

Rebecca Sawl Boggotoh Saloon, 9-11 pm, free

Patti Grand Yoshi's San Francisco, 4 & 10 pm, $35-$38, kids' bottoms $10

Boston Gordon & Her Bone Big Band Blue Brown, 10:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Room Wallace The Fabaret, 9 pm, $25

Rock & Roll Happy Bone Bone w/ local bands, Thee Parkside, 3-6 pm, free

Mission Rock Roo w/ SASSY!, Lady Beaten Live Evil & Perilight, Bone Utah, 8 pm, $8-$10

Pie Kale w/ the Nu Sir's, Light Gordon, Thee Parkside, 5 pm, $5

SFbS0 featuring Lucky Jones, Long Live Logan, Butterfly Boston/El Cabron John, Llorke Frenzies, & Music for Animals, at Rex, 3 pm, $5-$7

Shadows Unison w/ the New Tropi, Grand-mothers Hemlock Tavern, 8:30 pm, $7

Rock 46 w/ the Harrington Saints, The Memphis Murder Men, Annie's Social Club, 9 pm, $8

Bone Kale Bar Van Bone Slim Jones w/ the Portland Cello Project, David Schultz, The Independent, 9 pm, $17

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Pocket Cede, 10 pm, $10

How the West Was Bone Noonday Street Swag, DJ Gult, Nasley Rome, & Room Boys, The Warfield, 8 pm, $40-$50-$60

Saturday Night Soul Party w/ Tile Pala Parnes, Paul Paul & Plengon, Mission Pine Room, 10 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Forro in the Bone w/ groove, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $12-$15

Jaguares w/ Jim Compositum, The Regency Ballroom, 9 pm, $40-$50-$58.50

Noonday Bhangra Kontac/Party w/ Bhakti/Yoho Dance House & DJ Jimmy Love, plus Bhangra dance Grand w/ Vika Vikrat, 8:30 p.m., Gordon Stop, 9 pm, $10-$15

SUNDAY 22

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Mission for DOOF featuring Rebecca Bone & Her Consolidators, Ashkenaz, 3-6 pm, $10-$20

Po' Girl Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

Classical & Opera

Jonas Philharmonic Orchestra w/ Yuja Wang, piano, Long Yu, music director & conductor, Zellerbach Hall, 3 pm, $35-$90

Sandra Soderlund solo organ, performing works by Bach, Buxtehude, Hugo Distler & more, St. John's Presbyterian Church, 4 pm, $12, students $11

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra With music director & conductor Long Yu, and piano artiste Yuja Wang, Zellerbach Hall, 3 pm, $28, $45, $90

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Josh Allen Large Freedom featuring Vinnie Winant, Darren Johnston, Henry Kaiser, Boston Smith, Ara Mendoza, Jonas Robeson & more, plus Henry Kaiser Trio Noonday Gordon Green and Weasel Walter, The 53 Theater, 8 pm, $10

Gospel & Vocal

Berkeley Broadway Singers Fall Festival Broadway tunes, jazz standards, & contemporary "Tributes," St. Augustine's Church, 4 pm, free

University Schubert Mission performing *Thade Singer Sisters: A Thanksgiving Tribute to Women in Gospel Music* There Nas, 7 pm, $8-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jonas Sanders Ensemble Anna's Jazz Island, 7 pm, $12

Wallace Roney Quintet Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $15-$18, kids' Mission $10

Rock & Pop

The Page w/ Hall Gordon Liana Bolling, Art House Gallery & Mission Center, 7 pm, $7, $12 donation

KISS w/ guests, ORACLE Arena, 7:30 pm, $34.75-$125

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bone Gordon w/ Totterighem, Nita Spot Cafe, 8 pm, free

Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $3

Classical & Opera

Parnassus Winds & Dap Baker performing Baroque Pit Alpe, The Kaiser Baroque Music North, St. Mark's Lutheran

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Chibo@ EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Chibo Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

CLUB DIRECTORY

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222 Club 1 Hyde St., 415-440-0222
330 Bone 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574
Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
Anu Bar & Social Club 43 6th St., 415-543-3505
Ashby Bar Folsom St., 415-974-1585
Atmosphere 447 Broadway, 415-779-1616
Azul Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl., 415-362-8716
Bacchus 1954 Hyde St., 415-928-0920
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St., 415-292-2583
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
Brainwash 1122 Folsom St., 415-861-3663
Café du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Café International 508 Haight St., 415-552-7390
Caffe Boston 609 Vallejo St., 415-982-2605
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-703-8965
Cellspace 2050 Bryant St., 415-648-7562
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
Cliff House 1090 Point Lobos Ave., 415-386-3330
Club Fugazi 678 Green St., 415-421-4222
Club Six 60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221
Cozmo 2318 Mission St., 415-641-2600
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000
Dirty Trannies 2801 Leavenworth St., 415-775-5110
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Doggpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
El Rincon 2700 16th St., 415-437-9240
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
Club Hand 647 Commercial St., 415-392-7755
Fillmore Lounge 1419 Geary St., 415-673-1362
The Gold Lip 45 7th St., 415-645-5699
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
Club Kai 570 4th St., 415-285-1090
The Grand Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave., 415-673-5716
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
Johnny's 30 Bar & Grill 3920 Geary Blvd., 415-333-8873
Kitty Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave., 415-291-8255
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994
Connect Lounge 1707 Mission St., 415-864-5585
Madrone Mission 500 Divisadero St., 415-241-0202
Orchestra Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
The Music Store 66 West Portal Ave.
Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St., 415-454-5238
Park Chalet Great Hwy., 415-386-8439
Pier 23 Cafe The Embarcadero, 415-362-5125
Polk Performance 5637 Powell St., 415-643-0018
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
Roccapulco 3140 Mission St., 415-648-7385
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
Rooster Jones 809 Clement St., 415-387-8344
Rose Room 222 Mason St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275
Ship & Castle 453 Cortland Ave., 415-282-3456
Society 3809 18th St., 415-861-8284
Bone 333 11th St., 415-522-0333
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave., 415-550-8286
Bone Two 399 9th St., 415-863-0503
Sub/Mission Gallery 2183 Mission St., 415-255-7227
SupperClub 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900
Slim's Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292
Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330
Top of the Bone 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St., 415-616-6916
Tunnel Top 601 Bush St., 415-986-8900
Grand Mission 443 Broadway St., 415-775-2238
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
Boulevard, Restaurant and Lounge 2031 Sutter St., 415-563-5025
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

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C&C Church, 4 pm, $22-$25

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Patti Austin Yoshi's San Francisco, 3 & 7 pm, $15-$38, matinee $5

Rock & Pop

Event [illegible] **"Next Big Thing"** artists TBA, [illegible] 11 am, $15

Mouthwatered featuring Elevator, [illegible], [illegible], Hometown Death & Ed Rob Metal DNA Lounge 7:30 pm, $18-$22

KALX Something Artist Death featuring [illegible], Hearthem Whales, & the Morellos, plus [illegible], [illegible] Stop, 9 pm, $10-$13

Lake w/ Kari Blau, Half-Handed Death Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $8

Next Big Thing featuring local alternative and [illegible] bands, Cafe du Nord, noon, $15

Hold w/ the [illegible], Polar Bear Club, The Regency Ballroom 7:30 pm, $18.90-$24

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

10th Annual San Francisco World Music Festival: International Youth Music Hamilton featuring Bay Area Youth Ensemble, South Indian Youth Ensemble, Ali Akbar College of Music Youth Ensemble, Jumping Bull Youth Ensemble, San Francisco School Girl Ensemble, & more. Jewish Community Center of San Francisco 7 pm, $15, under 12 free

Death w/ Tomorrow's Bad Seeds, the [illegible] Fountain, Saul Jonathan Music Hall, 8 pm, $15

MONDAY 23

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Hamilton Memorial Ensemble Cafe [illegible], 7-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Youth Swing Benefit artists TBA, Yoshi's, 8 pm, $20

"Uptown Hobble Death" the Bulldogs w/ Hobble Hobble Revue, Uptown, 8 pm, $8

Rock & Pop

Wolfmother w/ Heartless Bastards, Fox Theater, 7:30 pm, $30.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lonny Death & Hot Hot Hot Jug Youth w/ [illegible] Jug, Youth [illegible], Cafe du Nord 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Second Release Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $6-$12

Ol' Be Grey the Fillmore, 8 pm, $23

Mr. Second w/ Songs for Snakes, [illegible], Elbo Room 9 pm, $6

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Doorspit Hamilton Yoshi's San Francisco 8 pm, $10

TUESDAY 24

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Hamilton Geyser Youth plus [illegible] dance [illegible] at 8 p.m. **Hamilton** 8:30 pm, $10

The Notey Toney Hillbilly Jamboree Yoshi's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

New Life Youth East Black gospel music, United Lutheran Church, 7 pm, donation

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jeff Hamilton Trio Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Honeypunch two sets, Chrome 8 pm, $8-$15

The Devil [illegible] w/ Mongolo, One Man Banjo & [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

Dirty Penny w/ Death Valley High, Three Weeks Clean, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $7

GWAR w/ [illegible] a Cowboy, the Red Death, The Regency Ballroom 8 pm, $22-$25

Lilys w/ Astral, LSD and the Search for God, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $10-$12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Best [illegible]: A Benefit for Sexual Awareness featuring [illegible], [illegible] Mel Calderon, Under, & [illegible], Cafe du Nord 9 pm, $10-$15

Late Night Live Ensemble: So Hamilton Yoshi's San Francisco 9:30 pm, [illegible] pm, $3

Warme w/ Dam-Funk, [illegible], The Independent, 8 pm, $22-$25

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Seyfolo Hamilton Yoshi's San Francisco 8 pm, $25

WEDNESDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The California Cowboys Saddle Rack, 8 pm, $5

David Berkeley w/ Sam Judge, Freight & Salvage 8 pm, $18.50-$13.50

Death the Metal featuring Freddie Hughes, plus [illegible] Death at 8 p.m. Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Mosquito Bandits w/ guests, Stork Club, 9 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Donny Lasseis [illegible] performance w/ [illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $16

SAN FRANCISCO

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera performing Giuseppe Verdi's [illegible] War Memorial Opera House, 7:30 pm, $25-$310

Rock & Pop

Gonzfly w/ [illegible], Youth Cloud, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12-$18

Joe Perry The Fillmore, 8 pm, $37.50

Lowdown w/ [illegible], Youth Confidante, Annie's Social Club, 9 pm, $7

Monsters of Death Tour featuring Vader, Decrepit Birth, the Absence, Warbringer, & August The Regency **Hamilton** 8 pm, $21.50-$24

Vinyl w/ [illegible] Brothers, [illegible], The Independent, 9 pm, $15

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Pol The Youth [illegible] w/ Death Star, Serendipity Project, & [illegible], **Great Hamilton** Metal Hall, 9 pm, $15-$22

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 19

EAST BAY

Brothers and Voodoo w/ DJs Dalton, Ravelli, & guests spinning soulful [illegible] music & classics from behind the world, The Vine Lounge. 10 pm. free

Club Fever w/ [illegible] Sound spinning reggae & dancehall. [illegible] Restaurant. 1 pm. free

College Night w/ DJ and DJ Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. White Horse Inn, 6 pm, $3, students free w/ valid ID

Voodoo Thursdays rotating DJs spinning reggae & world beat, Ala Bo & Lounge. 10 pm. free

[illegible] w/ DJs Brian Blunt, Ryan, & [illegible]. 8 pm. free

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and [illegible] spinning funk, reggae, & Brothers music, guests. 8 pm. free

DJ [illegible] spinning eclectic ear candy, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

DJ Jerry Rose spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B & more. Easy Lounge. 10 pm. and

DJ [illegible] spinning lounge. Lost [illegible] Lounge. 9 pm-2 am. free

[illegible] DJ Kool Kyle spins reggae, [illegible], & more, Kitty's. 10 pm. free

[illegible] DJ Richard [illegible] spins jazz & [illegible]. Kingman's [illegible]. 8 pm. free

[illegible] Thursdays student night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning mash-ups, [illegible] hip-hop & Top 40. [illegible] on Telegraph, 10 pm. TBA

Happy [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, African, salsa. Voodoo [illegible], boogie, disco & funk, Kitty's, 7 pm. free

Club the Edge w/ DJ the Reverend [illegible] Lounge spinning power pop, punk, & glam. Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am. free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] host MC [illegible] spin classic hip-hop, reggae & [illegible]. Luka's [illegible] Taproom & Lounge. 8 pm. free

Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave, Radio. 10 pm-2 am. free

Tasty ladies night w/ DJ [illegible] Voodoo spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21. 8 pm. $12

Trendy Thursdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning '80s, [illegible], hip-hop, & old-school. Shattuck Down Low. 8 pm. free

Thunderdome Thursdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning Lounge and more, [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm. and

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin '80s & new wave, Cat Club. 9 pm. free before 9:30 p.m., $6

Afrolicious w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & guests spinning Afro-tropical samba funk, Elbo Room. 10 pm. $6

[illegible] by Nose DJ [illegible] during [illegible], The [illegible]. 7:30-10 pm. free

College [illegible] DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin hip-hop, [illegible], R&B, & more. The Cellar. 10 pm. free

[illegible] spinning funky mixes & underground hip-hop. [illegible], free & [illegible]. free

[illegible] Brothers DJ [illegible] 10 pm. $10, [illegible] $12

Phonic rotating DJs. The Endup. 10 pm. $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs spinning hip-hop classics, funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, [illegible] & breaks. [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm. $5

[illegible] Thursdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning reggae. Club Six. 9 pm-2 am. $5, and [illegible] w/ RSVP

Voodoo [illegible] w/ DJs the Doctor, [illegible], & [illegible], plus special headliner. [illegible]. 9 pm. $10

Thursday Night DJ [illegible], [illegible] and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton, and Merengue. [illegible] Lounge. 8 pm. free

PICK

Royksopp

And the top electronic music show of the week goes to … **Royksopp** at the **Regency Ballroom** (1290 Sutter St., San Francisco) on Thursday, Nov. 19. The eleven-year-old Norwegian electronic music duo — probably best known for the song "Eple," licensed by Apple for the welcome music to Mac OS X Panther — is touring in support of March release *Junior*. Featuring Eurotrashy single "The Girl and the Robot" (featuring Robyn), *Junior* debuted to strong reviews and a number four spot on the Billboard electronic music charts. No surprise. Coders love its lush, ambient, big down tempo and the magical beeps and vibes of its production, guaranteed to numb the pain of cubicle life. Torbjørn Brundtland and Svein Berge play their first US tour dates in four years and intend to follow *Junior* up with *Senior* in 2010. Talented UK producer **Jon Hopkins** opens. 8 pm. $23.50. TheRegencyBallroom.com — *David Downs*

FRIDAY 20

EAST BAY

Flashback Fridays DJs Voodoo Mann, & guests spin old-school Lounge and funk. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. 10 pm. $10

Rock Explosion DJ Jorge [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, bachata, Spanish pop, & [illegible] & Bar, & pm-2 am. $12

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & dub. Easy Lounge. 10 pm. free

Retro-[illegible] [illegible] '80s [illegible] night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

Sultry Fridays DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival. 6 pm. $5

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Up indie-pop dance-pop nightclub, [illegible] Stop. 10 pm. $10 for 21 + $15 for 18-21

[illegible] [illegible] performing a tribute to [illegible], plus [illegible] & DJs [illegible]. [illegible]. 8 pm. $12

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins soul, funk, [illegible], R&B & garage. House of Shields. 9 pm. free

SATURDAY 21

EAST BAY

AB Productions & [illegible] spinning R&B & hip-hop. [illegible]. 10 pm. and

Club [illegible] DJs Jerry Rose & [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae & hip-hop. [illegible] Lounge. 8 pm. $10

DJ [illegible] 10 pm-2 am. free

Voodoo Lounge w/ [illegible] and [illegible] spinning hip-hop, indie pop, punk, [illegible], & funk. [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm. free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] and guests spin hip-hop, R&B, mash-ups, and rock. College Lane. 6 pm. and

Hella Gay! Halloween [illegible] w/ DJs Brook, [illegible], Ryan, & [illegible] spinning electronica, indie, house & hip-hop. [illegible]. 9 pm. $5

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible]. White Horse Inn. 9 pm. $5

Nuevo Saturdays Club 1220. 9 pm. $8

Lays and Presents a [illegible] Party w/ DJs spinning house, [illegible] on Telegraph, & pm. $10 & $15

La Rock Luna Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & banda, plus live [illegible]. Club 21. & pm. $10

Magic Milk Circle DJ [illegible] & guests host genre-surfing extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 9 pm. free

[illegible] w/ DJs Mac Rane and Farmers Market cocktails at 2:00 a.m. Easy Lounge. 10 pm. free

Pop History [illegible] pop hits from the Stooges to [illegible] spinning Ruby Room. 10 pm-2 am. free

[illegible] Thursdays DJ [illegible] & guests spin funk, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaeton, & more, Luka's Taproom & Lounge. & pm. $10

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B. [illegible] Lounge. 10 pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning the hottest Bay Area club hits, [illegible]. $7 pm. free before 10 p.m. with voucher

DJ Club The Sound Bar. 9 pm. free

[illegible] w/ DJs DJ [illegible] & [illegible] Mas spinning cumbia, reggaeton, [illegible], dancehall, and world dance-pop. Mezzanine Room. 10 pm. $5

[illegible] Saturdays w/ DJ Chris [illegible] spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups. [illegible] Lounge. 8 pm. $5

[illegible] DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin hip-hop, soul, funk, & reggae, Laszlo. 9 pm. free

[illegible] [illegible] w/ DJs spinning '80s, new wave & hip-hop. Cat Club. & pm. free

[illegible] DJs Apollo, Shortbus, & [illegible] spin funk, soul, [illegible], baile, reggae & [illegible] hip-hop. [illegible]. 10 pm. $5

Seduction w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club hits, The Cellar. & pm. free before 10 p.m., $10 after

[illegible] Lounge DJs spinning Voodoo Lounge, [illegible], & [illegible]. 10 pm. $20

The Show w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & guests spinning [illegible], & [illegible]. The EndUp. 10 pm. $10

SUNDAY 22

SAN FRANCISCO

Dub Voodoo w/ DJ Sep, [illegible], & guests spinning dub, roots, & dancehall [illegible]. Elbo Room. 9 pm. $6

TUESDAY 24

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge. 8 pm. free

WEDNESDAY 25

EAST BAY

Voodoo Pop [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] spinning house and [illegible] on Telegraph. & pm. $5

Voodoo Wednesdays DJ Voodoo & rotating guests spin salsa, cumbia, merengue, reggaeton, & more, plus [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge. & pm. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club Voodoo w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spinning [illegible]. Elbo Room. 10 pm. $5

[illegible] Voodoo Ten-Year Anniversary Cafe du Nord. 10 pm. $5 ●

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SAVAGE LOVE

WOUND UP OVER A CO-WORKER

Flirtation, hook-ups, slurs and cross-dressing.

By Dan Savage

I am a happily married, happily nonmonogamous male. We are not wild swinger types. For us it's more about the fact that monogamy does not work than about nailing everything that walks by. Anyway, I have encountered an odd situation a few times now where I'll be flirting with a potential fling and she knows I'm married and she's very interested. But when she finds out my marriage is nonmonogamous, she suddenly backs out. Case in point: a co-worker. We have been flirting since I started my new job. Today she asked me what my wife would do if she found out I was sneaking around on her. But when I told her my situation, that was the end of our flirtation. Any idea why women find the idea of cheating with me okay, but once they find out I have a free go of things, they walk?

No Figuring Women

This woman didn't find the idea of cheating with you "okay," NFW; she wanted to fuck you because you're married and presumably monogamous. Try to look at it from her perspective: When she thought you were willing to cheat on your wife to be with her, NFW, that meant you found her so attractive, so utterly irresistible, that you would break your marriage vows and risk everything to get into her pants. Sleeping with her with your wife's permission? Meh, where's the ego boost in that?

I am a fortyish married straight woman. I have been happily married in a monogamous relationship for eleven years. My husband and I met when we were in our early twenties. After listening to all of the Savage Lovecasts together, we started to talk about the idea of "some degree of openness."

In the past year, I have had a crush on a co-worker. This co-worker is single and seventeen years younger (yikes!) and he knows I am married. We had a great working relationship while we were assigned to a project together, but now he's in another department. My question is, how to go from here? I am excited and terrified. I'm having a private lunch with my co-worker soon. This is fine with my husband. What can you tell me to calm me the hell down and not be so stressed?

Newly Open Couple Looks Understanding & Education

Have that lunch, and tell your co-worker/crush that you and the husband are just beginning to explore the idea of openness. For all you know now, your much-younger co-worker may not be interested in being your piece on the side. If it turns out that he is interested, take things very slowly and keep your husband fully informed. But even if I could relieve you of your stress and anxiety with a few words, NOCLUE, I wouldn't. You should be anxious and stressed out. Your nervousness is prompting you to take things slowly and to be careful and conscientious about your husband's feelings. If this works out — for you, for your co-worker, for your husband — it will be in large part thanks to the stress, not despite it. Enjoy.

I have a co-worker who is losing business to a competitor who happens to be gay. In her fits of anger, she keeps calling him a faggot. I hate it. I am not gay. And if anyone in our office is, they are in the closet. She has used the word in front of other co-workers and even our boss, and no one seems to be bothered.

I am torn about what I should do. I am black, and if she was using the word "nigger," I would call her on it and raise issue with our HR department. Can I file a complaint on behalf of a group I do not belong to? If she found out I complained, she would see it as a threat to her own job, which would lead to a decidedly hostile workplace. But if it was a racial slur, I would not let that deter me.

Not My Problem?

If someone at my office were tossing the word "nigger" around, NMP, I would lodge a complaint. I would resent the assumption on my co-worker's part that since I'm white she can use racist speech in my presence, because, hey, all us white people are racist POS, right? And I would complain because a workplace that tolerates racist remarks is a workplace that tolerates homophobic remarks. If people are using "nigger" when there aren't any black people in the room, they're doubtless using "faggot" when there aren't any gay people in the room. And vice versa. Have a word with HR.

I have a new co-worker, a young man who is gay and quite effeminate. He's slim, wears makeup, has boyish/feminine features, and has done some modeling work as a woman. He said in a lunchroom discussion today that he prefers to wear women's clothes. He said he had worn women's clothes at a previous workplace, and no one had been offended. I suggested he talk to HR before coming to work dressed in women's clothing. Good advice or should I just mind my own business? One co-worker suggested that he work up to it a little, another said he should just do it and let the chips fall where they may. The question of what restroom he should use when dressed as a woman came up. I'm not 100 percent comfortable sharing the ladies' room with him. Though I am certain most of the men won't be comfortable sharing the men's room with him either.

She Knows It's Really Trivial

If your co-worker identifies as female, she should use the women's room. If he identifies as male, he should use the men's room. And seeing as he's using the men's room now, I don't see how the addition of a dress should change things for his male co-workers. And from the way you describe that lunchroom conversation, SKIRT, it sounds like your effeminate new co-worker has at least some support at work — but yes, he should have a talk with HR.

As for finding yourself in the same restroom with your newest co-worker, SKIRT, unless you routinely offer to zip up your co-workers or wipe their asses for them, I don't see how his presence — or his attire or genitalia — really impacts you at all.

Find my podcast at TheStranger.com/savage.
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SUMMONS NOTICE TO DEFENDANT CITACION JUDICIAL

SUMMONS
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
Chai Hsin Hsu and Does 1-20 inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF
Alfonso DeSilva

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. CASE NUMBER: RG09451749

The name and address of the court is: Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 Rene C. Davidson Courthouse

The name, address, and Telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
Charles F. Bourdon (60781)
Law Offices of Charles F. Bourdon
177 11th Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103
Phone No. 415-864-5100 Fax No. 415-865-0376

DAMAGES
(Declaratory Relief and Conversion)
To: Chai Hsin Hsu
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Plaintiff is entitled to damages in the amount of $20,[illegible]

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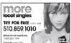
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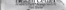

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